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**MEMOIR**  
**OF**  
**EDWARD FOSTER BRADY.**



Bedford, Peter

A MEMOIR

OF

EDWARD FOSTER BRADY,

LATE SUPERINTENDENT OF CROYDON SCHOOL.

CONSISTING CHIEFLY OF

EXTRACTS FROM HIS LETTERS AND JOURNAL.

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"Behold God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the Lord  
Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."

ISAIAH, xii. 2.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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IN presenting this Memoir to the notice of the public, the compiler is inclined to remark that he has done so, in the hope that it may prove interesting and instructive to the Christian believer; and that, under the influence of Divine grace upon the heart, it may become the means of inducing many to seek after those joys which are laid up at the end of the race, for those who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises.

It appears that previous to the eighteenth year of his age E. F. Brady was frequently in the practice of recording, for his own instruction, (without any view to its publication,) the state of his mind,

whereby he was enabled to discover what advancement he was making towards a better country; a practice worthy the adoption of others: and although he had at times, with feelings of regret, to pourtray the cause of his slow progress heavenward, he had also to testify his grateful sense of the unmerited mercy and protecting care of his Almighty Saviour.

P. B.

*Croydon, 24th 12th mo. 1838.*



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# A MEMOIR, &c.

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## CHAPTER I.

*Preliminary observations—Early life—Is bound apprentice—  
Serious illness—Is released from his apprenticeship—Con-  
tinued indisposition—Goes into Essex and Suffolk for the  
benefit of his health—Returns to London.*

As the contemplation of a life devoted to the cause of our Holy Redeemer, in one who has arrived at the end of his course, is calculated to increase our diligence in pressing towards the mark for the prize of our high calling, it is believed that some account of the humble Christian deportment of the beloved subject of this narrative, extracted chiefly from his own memorandums, may have a tendency to encourage others to follow him as he followed Christ. And may those, especially, who have had the privilege of being educated under his fostering care, remember the days of their early visitation; seasons in which they were permitted to enter into covenant with their God. Many of these, we trust,

have kept their covenant, and are as lights in the world, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation; others have finished their course with joy, and have died in the faith and hope of the gospel; but there are many who survive their much-loved and highly-valued preceptor. These will do well to recur to the pious example he set them, and to the counsel which he had often privately to impart.

It is pretty generally known that Edward Foster Brady filled the office of superintendent of Friends' School, at Croydon, much to their satisfaction, during the last four years of his life; and there is good reason to believe that the blessing of Heaven rested upon his pious and Christian endeavours to promote the welfare of the children, and the other members of that interesting establishment. He often felt it to be his duty to direct the attention of the dear children to the source from whence all our blessings flow, and to encourage in them feelings of gratitude to the Most High: when suitable opportunities presented, he would earnestly entreat them cheerfully to serve the Lord. The consequence of any departure from his righteous law was at various times pointed out to them, and the joy attendant upon a life spent in the filial fear and love of God, was very suitably brought before the view of their minds.

It was also his frequent engagement to remind

them that they were at all times under the notice of the Almighty, who knows our inmost thoughts, and witnesses our most secret actions; and whilst expressing the desire that they would endeavour to bear this solemn truth in constant remembrance, he was most anxious to impress upon them that our Heavenly Father is a God of love.

As his own mind had happily been brought under the precious *influence* of the *Spirit of Truth*, he was enabled to speak with much feeling on this subject; and he was anxiously solicitous that the dear children might attend to the gentle monitions of the Holy Spirit, from time to time manifested in the secret of their own hearts. Not unfrequently, when he has been engaged to speak to them on these deeply-interesting subjects, have their susceptible minds been brought into great tenderness, the remembrance of which even now may be profitable to them, whilst they recollect that the mortal remains of him, who then pleaded with them so impressively, now rest in the silent grave. And, oh! that those who have in any degree slighted the visitations of Heavenly Love, and departed from the way of life and salvation, may be induced to return unto him who is willing to blot out their transgressions as with a cloud, and to remember their iniquities no more. Let such be encouraged by the gracious invitation of our blessed Saviour: "Come unto me,

all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest: take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Edward Foster Brady was born on the 29th of 12th mo. 1802, of parents residing in London. When he was about nine years of age he was placed at Friends' School, near Islington; and although we have nothing very particular to record of his boyish days, his conduct was so orderly and becoming, that he was introduced to the notice of the committee under whose management the school was conducted; and about the time he attained the age of fourteen he was placed on trial, and subsequently bound an apprentice to the institution. During the whole of his apprenticeship his conduct was such as ensured the approbation and esteem of the committee, and there is reason to believe he was much beloved by those with whom he was associated in the employment of teaching; but during this period he was not without his trials.

When about seventeen years of age, in writing to a friend, with reference to his situation, he says:—"Upon calm reflection I consider it among the favours of a kind Providence to me, that I was placed in so guarded a situation; though I have found that walls are no protection against an un-

wearied enemy, who is ever ready to insinuate himself into our minds, and to usurp that ascendancy in them which belongs not to him. But he is and ever was a deceiver; may I therefore strive to shut the door against him. I never was very communicative to any one on religious subjects, knowing my own weakness and backslidings. For some time past my attention has not unfrequently been turned to the contemplation of eternity. I have felt sensible that my day's work has not kept pace with the day; and if the command were now to go forth, 'Steward, give an account of thy stewardship,' the query has been raised within me, how should I appear before the great and just Judge? My mind has been solemnly affected with this consideration, and I believe it will be well for me frequently to reflect upon it.

"I have often thought it would be advantageous for me to seek for times of retirement, for moments of calm reflection; yet, from the incessant duties of my station, opportunities of this sort have seldom occurred; nevertheless, convinced, as I am, of the beneficial effects resulting from frequent self-examination, I do earnestly desire to be enabled to devote some part of each future day to the performance of this important duty. Though at seasons, when no eye has seen me, and sometimes on retiring to rest, I have poured forth tears of contrition and peni-

tence before Him who seeth in secret; yet at others my heart has been hard, and I have been insensible and indifferent to better things; yet he, whose compassions fail not, has not forsaken me; his correcting hand has followed me for doing evil, and desires have been raised in my mind that he would be pleased to enable me to walk in obedience to his Divine requirings.

“ When I reflect on the various incidents of my life, on the continued care of Divine providence, on the many blessings of which I am an unworthy partaker, the query is raised in my mind, ‘ What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?’ I feel, and have long felt, that greater dedication and devotedness are required of me. May I be concerned constantly to maintain the watch, and to wait for daily instruction from the great Master.”

The following extracts are from his Journal.

“ 1824. 3rd mo. 9th. I believe it to be my duty, may it be my engagement, to set a constant watch, not only upon my words and actions, but also upon my thoughts. Seeing we shall one day return to our native dust, is it not the duty, as well as the interest of a Christian, often to reflect seriously on the subject of DEATH? May I encourage considerations of this nature, as I think they cannot fail to have a beneficial effect on my future life.



“ 3rd mo. 10th. Though prevented from assembling with my friends, for the purpose of performing the solemn duty of worship, I trust my mind has, at times, been favoured with a degree of solemn stillness, wherein I have received instruction and comfort. Numberless are the blessings I am favoured with; may my gratitude increase in proportion thereto.

“ 3rd mo. 11th. Went out to-day for a few minutes, for the first time for nearly a month. The prospect of being restored to health again appears to me an awful one. Oh that I might, in my future steppings through life, be preserved from grieving the Holy Spirit, whose gentle intimations I have so often disregarded. ‘Set a watch, O, Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.’ Psalm, cxli. 3.

“ 3rd mo. 15th. In looking over the events of to-day, I believe I suffered loss from reading the light and frivolous contents of a newspaper. May it serve as a caution for the future. The enemy is ever on the alert to instil poison into our minds.”

On the 26th of 5th mo. he writes: “My mind has been a good deal depressed lately from various causes. My health appears so precarious that I hardly know how to act for the best. Should I be obliged to leave a family in which I have lived for so many years, it will be no small trial to me. I be-

lieve, however, it will be better for me to do so, than to remain in a situation where I have so little prospect of enjoying the inestimable blessing of HEALTH.

“ 6th mo. 14th. About six o’clock this morning I was suddenly attacked with expectoration of blood, which continued for about three hours.

“ 6th mo. 17th. When I reflect upon eternity, how very awful is the contemplation of it! An entire separation of the soul from the body, and a never-ending continuance either of happiness or misery. On the 13th of this month I heard of the decease of my late friend, Samuel Bennett. My mind was considerably affected by the circumstance, and in secret I could not avoid shedding tears of sympathy with his sorrowing brother and sister. Though I cannot for a moment doubt their loss is his unspeakable gain, yet to see a young man in the bloom of life, whose example was particularly calculated to have a beneficial effect upon his associates, cut down as a flower of the field, is a striking call to us all to be ready, and with our lamps burning. I considered that I had particular reason to derive instruction from this affecting event. Dear Samuel kindly called to see me a short time back, he then appeared to be in usual health—now he is gone to his long home. I could not help saying to myself, O that I were ready to follow him!

“ 6th mo. 17th. I am sometimes comforted in remembering that Jesus died for sinners, although my faith is often very weak.

“ 6th mo. 19th. It is undoubtedly the duty of a Christian to be resigned under every dispensation. As I am fully satisfied that nothing happens by chance, but that all things are under the direction of inscrutable Wisdom, I cannot doubt that my illness is intended for my good. O that it may have this effect upon me, that it may wean me from myself, and that my affections may centre on things above!

“ O thou omniscient God! thou knowest my wanderings and my backslidings; grant me ability to walk acceptably before thee! Create in me a clean heart, contrite my proud spirit, and enable me to look to *thee*, and to thy dear Son for a pattern and a guide.

“ Gratitude ought to be the prevailing sentiment of my heart, the continual covering of my spirit. What abundant mercies and favours have I to be thankful for! My being surrounded by kind friends, and provided with all things necessary to my outward comfort, call loudly for a grateful, for an obedient heart.

“ 6th mo. 20th. If my life should be prolonged, and yet a little further time be permitted me to prepare for eternity, may I, in return for such unmerited

mercy, condescension and love, be so concerned to regulate my conduct, and so to walk acceptably before an all-merciful Creator, that at the last I may be of that happy number to whom the consoling language of 'Well done,' will be addressed.

"6th mo. 25th. Whilst the family was at meeting I was melted to tears on reflecting upon the goodness and long-suffering of a merciful God.

"7th mo. 2nd. Death's dread mandate comes to all. The hour is uncertain: it may be early; it may be sudden. Neither youth nor beauty, neither genius nor virtue exempts from the awful summons. O then *prepare* for it, and *live* prepared." What instruction doth the above few lines contain!

"7th mo. 11th. Enabled to attend the First-day morning meeting, which I esteem a favour.

"7th mo. 20th. In meeting this morning, as well as last First-day, I was enabled to wait with a more than usual degree of watchfulness; and my mind was favoured with a peaceful serenity not often experienced by me. May the record of this favour tend to encourage me on future similar occasions to endeavour patiently to maintain the watch.

"Thou, O God, art omnipotent! In the name of thy dear Son, and in the recollection of *his* merits do I humbly put up my petition. *Thou only* knowest the wickedness that is in me. Deliver me from

my *besetting sin*. Lord increase my faith ; give me a believing heart, that so I may make known my requests unto thee, with holy confidence !”

At the time of his illness one of the members of the committee, who then resided at Stoke Newington, took our young friend to his residence for change of air, and had him attended to with much affectionate kindness, which he long gratefully remembered. After being released by the committee he spent some time in Essex and Suffolk, and subsequently took up his abode, for a time, with a friend in London. Whilst he remained there it was apprehended that consumption was making rapid progress, and scarcely any hopes of his recovery were entertained by the physician who attended him and those interested in his welfare, and it was thought advisable that he should reside for a time in the south of France. In his journey to the Continent he was accompanied by Henry Binns, son of Joseph and Mary Binns, of Southwark. This dear young man was in the 20th year of his age, and the feelings of his affectionate parents were much excited on his behalf, as he also had symptoms of consumption, but his health did not appear to be so much affected as that of the subject of this memoir.

## CHAPTER II.

*Journey to the South of France, accompanied by Henry Binns.  
—Residence at Congenies—Increased illness and decease of  
H. B.—Extracts from letters, &c.*

THE two invalids proceeded to Dover, crossed over to Boulogne, and from thence to Paris. The following extracts from E. F. B.'s letters it is believed will not be without interest to the reader.

“ On second day, after we left Canterbury, we had the company of two seafaring men, one of whom made use of very improper language. We bore with him for some time, till at last we took courage and reproved him for it. He behaved very respectfully, and admitted the impropriety of his conduct, and we had a good deal of conversation with him about that and other subjects. I am very glad we did not omit speaking to him. I think this little circumstance will encourage us to do our duty in this respect for the future. Although we were a good deal exposed to the rain, and got very wet, I think we are both of us better to-day than when we left London : this I con-

sider a favour, and I hope we feel grateful for it. I shall often think of the evening we spent together at thy house on First-day. It will do me good to reflect upon it, when we are far separated from our friends."

They reached Paris the 15th of 10th month, and were detained there several days, waiting the arrival of their passports.

From Paris, 17th of 10th mo. 1824, he writes :

" In the hinder part of the diligence was a black man, who, we understand, is employed by some bankers at Paris, to transact business for them. As he was very noisy, calling out to persons on the road, singing, &c. I took the opportunity of presenting him with a tract on *Silence*, and another containing Observations on the carnal and spiritual State of Man, by W. Allen. These quieted him, and I am sure did him no harm. At the next place where we alighted, he requested I would give him a few more, which I did. When we re-entered the coach, I found that one of our respectable fellow-travellers had obtained one of these tracts. This led to a conversation about Friends, and their principles. We gave him what information we could, with which he seemed much pleased. Upon our enquiring if he had ever read any Friends' books, and being answered in the negative, we offered to furnish

him with a few before we left Paris.\* He gave us his card, and seemed much pleased with the proposal. I believe we were both comforted that this opportunity had offered for furnishing him with the means of acquiring information relative to our principles. Before we reached Abbeville we were left alone for a short time with a passenger who proceeded no further with us. As he was very busy singing and whistling, we gave him one of the tracts, which he read with great attention. After awhile he returned it, saying it was good for those that believed it, but not for him. I enquired his reasons for objecting: he replied, it contained various allusions to Jesus Christ, in whom he did not believe. Hoping to do him some little good, I gave him W. Allen's Observations on the carnal and spiritual State of Man. This he perused attentively, but I could see from his countenance and actions that he was not pleased with the contents. He returned this also after a while, nor could we prevail upon him to keep them. How much to be pitied is the state of those who shut their eyes and ears against that knowledge in which consists eternal life! We had other opportunities of disposing of our tracts, of which we availed ourselves, and we sincerely hope

\* This was attended to.



that the perusal of them may be beneficial to the readers. I would advise any Friends travelling in France to be well supplied with books and tracts. I think they may be the means of doing much good. We bore the journey to Paris surprisingly well, and I think we were better at the end of it than when we left Boulogne. I have had very little cough since I left England, and though Henry's has not left him, I hope it is better. We both of us, at times, are rather low; but when that is the case we endeavour to encourage each other with the recollection of the many blessings we are favoured with. We have much to be thankful for. Our friends in England are very dear to us now we are so far separated from them. The contrast between them and the people we are now amongst is great. I hope thou wilt not think we are dissatisfied. I thought thou wouldst like to be acquainted with our little difficulties. We are both well satisfied we have left England for a time."

From Congenies he writes as follows :—

1824. 10th mo. 29th. "We were met at the door by Louis Majolier and several members of his family, who all received us with the greatest kindness. They had been expecting us the last two or three days. We dined with James Charlton, his wife, and sister, and we consider it no small privilege that we have found such friends here : they are as kind to us as

if we were near relatives. Before the receipt of this thou wilt probably have learnt, by the letter I wrote to my brother from Lyons, the state of my companion's health at that time. Were I able to make a more favourable report it would give me great pleasure ; but it is with extreme regret that I inform thee that his cough has not at all improved since that period ; it is exceedingly troublesome both night and day, and I must acknowledge that I felt a good deal depressed on his account, both before and after we left Lyons. His weakness is at times considerable, and his breathing difficult. The almost incessant jolting which is inseparable from travelling in this country, and the night travelling to which we have been in degree compelled, appears to have disagreed with him very much. But I hope, now we have arrived at the end of our journey, that rest, prudent care, and kind attention, will soon prove beneficial to him : indeed he seems better this morning, although he had rather a troublesome night. With the exception of a little cold, which I have had only a few days, I think I may say my health has decidedly improved since we left London. For this and other favours I hope I feel grateful, as it has enabled me to perform some little services for my companion which otherwise I should not have been capable of doing. We have arrived here at a time of great affliction : a niece of L. M.'s, the wife of

a young man named Brun, who resides in a neighbouring village, died a few days ago, and the sister of the same young man is not expected to survive many hours : both individuals were in usual health a fortnight ago. In consequence of this distressing circumstance Louis Majolier's wife is not at home, and I believe we are likely to board with our kind friends, the Charltons, for a few days.

“ 10th mo. 31st. While sitting at meeting with the little company of Friends at this place, my mind was affected with the recollection of the words of the apostle, ‘ Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons ; but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.’ \* I felt comforted in hoping, perhaps I might say in believing, that some in this small meeting were sincerely desirous to have their minds rightly fixed and centered. O that the number of such may increase, and that I may endeavour to attain more and more unto this state.

“ 11th mo. 3rd. Additional cause of gratitude. Although so far from all our connexions, we have here found very kind friends, and things much more comfortable than we anticipated. If no opportunity occurs for our doing any good, I hope we shall be very watchful that our example may not have a tendency to do harm. Should my companion be

\* Acts, x. 34, 35.

permitted to get better, I shall esteem it a great favour.

“ When on the journey I made this reflection—should dear Henry’s illness increase I shall be placed in a most trying situation. Great will be the anxiety of his friends. It is wise not to anticipate difficulties, and I believe it will be my place to do the best in my power, and to guard against a spirit of repining, which perhaps I have indulged too much at times. O that he may be permitted to improve in health, rather than get worse! Whatever may be the event, as Christians we should aim after contentment, knowing that all things are ordered by inscrutable Wisdom.

“ 11th mo. 13th. Before the receipt of this thou wilt have learnt from my last, which was written in great haste, how I have been circumstanced as regards my companion. His state of health has caused me great anxiety, and continues to do so. At present his cough is rather better, though he is very weak, owing, I suppose, in part to his medicine, low diet, and to a blister which has been kept open a few days, and which I think has already considerably relieved him. Once or twice since we have been here the thermometer has been as high as 70° in the shade, in the middle of the day, but that is above the general temperature at this time of the year. The account thou hast given me of the kindness of

the committee has overcome me, and I know not what to say on the subject: this fresh instance of their liberality was unexpected, undeserved, and unsolicited. I receive it as a kind donation from them, and trust I feel thankful for it. Please to present my grateful acknowledgments. Should my health ever be so far established as that the necessary exertion of the lungs inseparable from school-keeping, would not be prejudicial to me, and were I free from any other engagement, gratitude, independently of the interest I feel in the establishment, would, I think, induce me again to offer my feeble services to the committee, in case they stood in need of an assistant in the school.

“ Louis A. Majolier’s attention and kindness have already secured our affectionate attachment to him, and his solicitude on behalf of my companion is great; and I am sure that he would gladly do any thing that he thought would be beneficial to him. This I may also say of the whole family. Although dear Henry’s cough is a little better, he continues extremely feverish both night and day.

“ 11th mo. 13th. Since I wrote the preceding, L. M. thought he should be best satisfied to send for a physician, who has been, and prescribed for Henry. He considers him in a delicate state of health, but hopes he will soon be better. I consider him in a very precarious state indeed: his nights

are often much disturbed, either by cough, or fever, or both; and though his cough appears better one day, it is generally worse again the next. He is at times rather low, which I do not at all wonder at, when we consider the state of his father's health, about whom he is very anxious. I do what I can to comfort him, and I think I may truly say, that any little service I am able to perform for him is done with the greatest pleasure. He has left a kind mother and affectionate sisters behind him; and although L. M. is as a father to us, I fear he finds nobody to supply their places. Although we are so far separated, I am sure thou wilt sympathize with us. We know it is our duty not to repine, but to receive every dispensation of Divine Providence with resignation. I am not forgetful of the many friends whom I have left in England, nor do I think there is any danger that length of time or distance will efface them from my recollection."

The following memorandum is extracted from his journal.

"11th mo. 14th. I shall do well to guard against delight or pride in dress, and a disposition which attaches too much respect and importance to those who abound in this world's goods. I believe poverty is a soil, wherein true religion often grows.

"In passing along we have often been reminded, by the appearance of crosses, &c. in different places,

that we are in a Roman Catholic country. One morning we felt affected at the sight of an *old man*, by the road-side, on his knees before a cross, *counting his beads* : these circumstances forcibly called to our recollection the address of Paul to the Athenians, when he said, ‘ As I passed by I beheld an altar with this inscription—To the unknown God.’ Ah ! when will the bonds of ignorance and superstition be broken, and the captive spirits set free ; and be permitted to worship the Redeemer, and learn not to fall down to stocks and stones, which cannot profit them !

“ 11th mo. 21st. Enter into thy closet and shut thy door, and pray to thy Father who is in secret. How difficult have I found it to have my mind rightly stayed in the last three meetings ! How greatly is the activity of the creature opposed to the solemn worship of the Creator ! May I not faint under discouragement, but still seek for ability to watch and to pray. I believe it will be well regularly to pursue the practice of devoting a portion of each day to private retirement. Though I may not always be sensible of deriving benefit on these occasions, I trust that an endeavour to commune with my own heart and be still, will be attended with profit.”

About this time we find the following short petition recorded.

“ Under a feeling sense of my own weakness, and of thy *all-sufficiency*, may I with reverential fear beg of thee, thou God of purity, that thou wilt be pleased to bestow upon me thy gift of faith ! At times I trust I desire to love thee, but I feel fully sensible of the loss I sustain for want of constantly living in thy fear. Do thou be pleased to strengthen my good resolutions, enable me to overcome my evil propensities, and to guard against the suggestions of the great enemy ; and -O, in time of temptation may I flee unto thee for refuge, and find thy name indeed to be a strong tower. Thus may I be enabled to put up my petitions in the name, and trust in the merits of thy dear Son. Be pleased to beget in me a godly sorrow for sin, and enable me not only to know, but also grant me ability to do thy will. Amen.”

In a letter from Congenies, dated the 25th of 11th mo. 1824, he says:—“ Perhaps thou wilt be rather surprised at hearing from me again at this time, nor had I intended to write so soon, but the continued and increased indisposition of my companion seemed to render it desirable that his friends should again receive some information respecting him. For some days he appeared to derive benefit from the prescriptions of the French physician, and we all entertained sanguine hopes that his complaints were yielding to his treatment. The fever



had left him in great measure, his breathing was less difficult, and his cough had considerably abated. But these favourable and truly cheering symptoms lasted only a few days, and, with the exception of the fever, his complaints are now as violent as they were before; his weakness has also increased, and he evidently gets thinner. Though the physician spake very encouragingly of him the first two visits, he now considers him in a critical situation. He is of opinion that the strength which he has had for some time past has not been natural, but was owing to fever, and that the disease had made considerable progress in his constitution before we left London. Thus have I endeavoured to put thee in possession of the entire state of the case. It was my dear friend L. M.'s opinion, and also my own, that it would be better to address thee, than to write direct to his parents, thinking thou wouldst have the kindness to convey the sorrowful intelligence to them in such a manner as may seem best to thee. Though dear Henry is convinced that he is not so well as he was, and that he is much weaker, he attributes it to the medicine, and not to the disease. The doctor and all of us think that it is owing to the progress of his complaint. He converses but little, as the exertion brings on his cough. I do not know, from any thing he has said, that he considers himself in danger. As he is fond of hearing

books on religious subjects read, I employ myself part of the day in endeavouring to amuse, and I hope instruct him in this way. I feel very much for his parents and friends."

The following letter, from our late dear friend, Joseph Binns, on the receipt of the intelligence of his son's increased indisposition and critical situation, is fraught with such feelings of pious resignation, that it is believed its introduction here will not be considered an unsuitable digression.

" Church St. Bermondsey, 12th mo. 13th, 1824.

" My dear Friend,

" Inclosed I return dear Edward Brady's last letter. I expect thou wilt not look for much apology from me for detaining it so long, but wilt easily appreciate the feelings of myself and family, under the sorrowful tidings unfolded in it. By this day's post we have been favoured with a communication direct from, and in the hand-writing of the dear invalid himself. Although the detail he gives adds little, in particulars, to the account furnished by dear Edward, yet, from the style of the writing, &c. it is pretty evident that the disease is still making greater and greater progress. And when I mention that his letter was not completed in less than six days, from its original to its final date, thou wilt have some idea of the enfeebled

state of the endeared writer. Indeed the manner in which he speaks, when alluding to himself, plainly indicates to me that his constitution is rapidly giving way—that he is fast sinking under the pressure of the disorder, and that, without some speedy and unlooked-for mitigation of the symptoms, his continuance here cannot be calculated on as of long duration. For this conclusion dear Edward's last had in some measure previously prepared us. But how painful, my dear friend, has been and is our suspense! And how difficult to bring our feelings into that state of abstraction and quietude, in which, and which only, I believe, aspirations can be acceptably made after humble acquiescence in the Divine will!" Our friend J. Binns adds, "Yet, through all, secret hopes are at times raised, that his being placed where he is may have been ordered in best wisdom, and may, through the Divine blessing, prove the means, by weaning his spirit from a dependence on any earthly comfort, of leading to a dependence solely on the aid of Him who hath promised, that those who put their trust in him alone he will in no wise cast off. That this has in some degree, and will more and more become the dear sufferer's happy experience, the following affecting conclusion of his letter leads us to hope. He says, 'I can assure you I have passed through many melancholy seasons,

since my arrival here, both of an inward and outward nature; but by flying to the arm of Omnipotence, hopes are raised in me, that I shall receive the reward of peace and happiness, as I cleave to my merciful Redeemer.' ”

Deeply trying was the situation of our young friend, E. F. Brady, at this time. His companion was fast sinking away; and although surrounded by kind friends, who did every thing in their power to mitigate his suffering, they could not arrest the hand of death; and on the 20th of the 12th month, 1824, we have good reason to believe that he died in peace. The progress of the disorder, and the state of mind through which Henry Binns had to pass, before the work of sanctification was accomplished, is thus affectingly narrated by E. F. B. :—  
“ Although this dear young friend did not communicate *much* of a religious character, it was evident to those about him that his mind was favoured with much sweet sensibility and tenderness. One evening, in the course of conversation, he remarked, ‘ It might, perhaps, have been as well for us if we had gone to Penzance; however,’ he continued, ‘ it was all done for the best. I may recover, and I may not; but I have not lived such a life as I ought to have done.’ I observed to him, we might all make that acknowledgment; for after we had done all

that was in our power, in the language of Scripture, we were but unprofitable servants. He also said that he had often felt encouraged with the recollection of the passages of Scripture, 'Come, ye children, hearken unto me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord.' 'Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.' He then remarked, that all were not able to express what they felt; from which I concluded that, although he had said but little for some days, his mind had not been unprofitably exercised. In the course of the conversation allusion was made to the death of a young woman, (a Friend,) after a very short illness, which had taken place since we had been here; from which circumstance it was inferred, that it was of the utmost importance for *all*, even those in perfect health, to be in a state of preparation for their change. 'Yes,' dear Henry said, 'how many there are who never think of their eternal well-being till laid upon a sick bed! A death-bed repentance, (continued he,) as had been observed by some one, is an awful thing.' We afterwards sat some time together in silence. I trust I was in degree thankful for this little opportunity, in which I believe our spirits were humbled together.

"Sixth-day, 3rd 12th mo. My dear companion has been increasingly weak and ill to-day, particu-

larly in the morning. This evening I remarked to him, 'How great a blessing is health;' 'And yet,' he replied, 'how many there are who, when favoured with it, do not sufficiently prize it.' I observed to him that sickness also was sometimes a great blessing. 'Yes,' he returned; 'and perhaps my illness may be intended as a blessing to me.' He afterwards feelingly alluded to some excellent advice, contained in a letter received this morning from his father. I cannot help feeling, deeply feeling at what appears likely to be the issue of the disorder. May I watch that no murmuring thought arise!

Such was the interest which E. F. B. felt in the welfare of his companion, that he was induced to put into his hand the following lines, which subsequently led to a development of the state of his mind.

“ ‘Second-day, 6th 12th mo.

“ ‘To dear Henry,

“ ‘I thought I should be most satisfied to remark, that it has afforded me much comfort to observe the degree of tranquillity and resignation with which thou appears to have been favoured, since we have been at Congenies.

“ ‘Should Divine Providence see meet to restore thee to health, it will be cause of humble gratitude; but, my *dear Henry*, if, in his *inscrutable* and *unerring* wisdom, he should be pleased to take thee from us at an earlier period, I have felt particularly

anxious that the *undeniable* messenger may not be sent to thee unawares. ‘Be ye also ready’ was the injunction of Him who left the bosom of his Father, and offered himself a propitiatory sacrifice for sin. May we be so favoured, that when he may be pleased to say it is enough, we may, through *his* merits and intercession, be prepared to give up our accounts with joy and not with grief.

“ ‘Though thou hast said but little the last few days, I cannot doubt that thy mind has been profitably occupied. What a favour it is that there needeth not words, in the intercourse between the soul and its Creator !

“ ‘Accept the above few lines, as a token of the real love and affection, of thy truly attached friend,

“ ‘E. F. B.’

‘We’ve no abiding city here ;

Sad truth, were this to be our home ;

But let the thought our spirits cheer,

We seek a city yet to come.’

“ In giving the above lines to my dear young friend I felt very anxious that I might be preserved from doing harm. He appeared to be affected with the perusal of them ; and about an hour afterwards, when we retired to our chamber, I said I hoped he did not feel hurt at what I had written. He burst into tears, and taking me by the hand, said, ‘Hurt, my dear *Edward*, oh, no ! I cannot feel

hurt; but I am not able to converse on the subject now.' I observed to him that I considered my life very uncertain; that I had no expectation of surviving many years, and that I thought we might both of us derive encouragement from the recollection that we were under the notice of a kind Creator, one of whose distinguishing attributes is mercy.

" 7th of 12th mo. This evening, after we had been sitting together some time in silence, dear Henry burst into tears, and said, ' The contents of thy note, my dear Edward, affected me very much. I fear thou hast entertained far too good an opinion of me.' I endeavoured to encourage him with the Scripture declaration, ' That it is not by works of righteousness that *we* have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.' ' Ah !' said he, ' I have been a sinner, a great sinner.' I queried whether he might not derive encouragement from the recollection that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ! I observed to him that I supposed he was aware that his situation was a critical one. He signified that he was well convinced of it, and that, if he should be taken away thus early in life, he had felt very anxious that he might be prepared for the change.

" This opportunity, though affecting to us both, was to me very satisfactory. I afterwards read to



him some texts of Scripture, consisting chiefly of promises of Divine mercy to those under affliction of body, with which he expressed his satisfaction. Throughout the conversation dear Henry's conduct was marked by a solemnity well suiting the seriousness of the subject, and the remainder of the evening he appeared calm and tranquil.

"I feel desirous that, when opportunities of this sort occur, I may be preserved from saying any thing in my own will.

"9th of 12th mo. This afternoon Henry took me by the hand and said, 'My dear Edward, I have been made renewedly thankful, both yesterday and to-day, for the many blessings with which I am surrounded.' I remarked, that it was a favour that he was enabled to make this acknowledgment, as we could not of ourselves command these feelings. 'Yes,' said he, 'it is. I am not able to say a great deal; (owing to his cough;) but I have been thinking of the passage, Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.'

"I observed to him that there were times when we felt much discouraged on account of sin, and at such seasons the enemy would endeavour to make us believe that our iniquities were too great to be forgiven. When under discouragement of this kind we should do well to remember, that if any man

sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

“ In the evening of third day I asked him if he had any message to his parents—whether I might tell them he was labouring after resignation to the Divine will. ‘ Yes, certainly,’ he said, ‘ thou knowest I do not say much. Tell them I am quite aware of my situation, and am endeavouring to honour the Lord in all my ways and goings.’ After a considerable pause he added, with much deliberation and solemnity, ‘ The Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works ;’ and if it should please him to take me away early, oh that I may be permitted to enter those blissful regions, where I shall be happy for ever and ever.’ This occurred after reading the 103rd Psalm.

“ On fourth day evening, before reading a letter from home to him, and my telling him there was intelligence from his father, he exclaimed, ‘ Oh, my dear father! I am afraid I shall never see him again.’

“ On Sixth-day morning, between seven and eight o’clock, he was suddenly seized with great pain in the side, and his difficulty of breathing was very great. Upon my calling dear L. Majolier into the room, he encouraged him to put his trust in the Lord. This he seemed enabled to do, as his earnest petition in

the midst of much bodily suffering, was for patience.

“ An hour or two after this, when we were sitting by his bed-side, Henry exclaimed, ‘ A Saviour, or I die! A Redeemer, or I perish for ever! Oh, what hath my Saviour done for me! He hath laid down his precious life for my sins.’ After a pause, he added, ‘ I said for my sins; not for my sins only, but for all the world.’ When I went to him in the course of the following night, he said, ‘ I cannot talk much, but I believe it will be well with me. I believe it will.’

“ Seventh-day morning. While sitting alone by the bed-side of my dear afflicted companion, my spirit was humbled, and my heart much tendered; and I felt enabled, I think, to believe that when it shall please Divine Providence to cut short the thread of life, his spirit will centre in eternal happiness.

“ In the course of the day he sent divers messages to his relations and friends.

“ In the evening he took an affectionate leave of two of L. M.’s daughters, and also of another young woman who had waited on him. He thanked them for their kind attention to him, after which he addressed a few words to each, which cannot now be recollected, except to Lydia, the youngest, to whom he said, ‘ I may never see thee again—thou art

young. 'Look unto the Lord and he will be near thee and preserve thee.' To L. M.'s wife he said, 'Farewell, my dear friend: I perhaps shall not see thee again. I hope we shall meet in heaven.' On her observing, she did not doubt a happy rest was prepared for him, he humbly replied, 'I hope so.' To me he said, 'My dear Edward, I seem to have little to say to thee, but that I am much obliged to thee for all thy care and kindness to me, and I sincerely hope thou mayst be favoured to return home in health and safety. I hope we shall be favoured to meet in heaven.'

"He expressed at different times as follows:—  
'I have a dear, affectionate father: he has always been a good father to me; and a dear mother, sisters, and brother. Perhaps I may never see them again; but I think I am strengthened to give them up. I do not know when the physician will come again, but I must have no dependence upon outward aid, my dependence must be upon the Lord alone. These trials are intended to prove us;' and on the latter part of the seventh chapter of Revelations being read to him, and a silence ensuing, he said, 'Lord, take me to thyself, if it be consistent with thy holy will. I desire to go, had I an evidence of being accepted, that is all I want.'

"After a psalm was read, concluding, 'Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thy heart; wait I say on the Lord, on a little

pause, dear Henry said, with much feeling, 'That is what I believe I am doing; but I am afraid that sometimes in the day my mind is not sufficiently kept waiting upon the Lord. I hope words are not necessary.' And it being remarked they were not, and that it was the heart the Lord looked at, he appeared comforted.

"Feeling much pain in the side, and complaining of great heat in the throat, he was asked to take something. 'Patience,' he said, 'I must seek for. I hope it will be granted me to the end.' It was observed, we thought it had been granted him, and that it was a Divine gift. He replied deliberately and with feeling, 'I believe it is.'

"When in a state of much bodily suffering our friend L. M. who was near him, seemed affected on observing his great patience, and said with much feeling, 'Mon ami, ta patience me touche, j'espere qu'elle sera un sacrifice acceptable.'

"A short time before his decease, when our kind friend E. C. was sitting by him, he appeared to be in considerable pain, which he bore with his accustomed patience. Upon her going to him, and saying how much she felt for him, and with what pleasure she would do anything in her power to afford him relief, he said her company had been a comfort to him.

"On the 20th of 12th mo. 1824, the breathing of

my dear companion became gradually shorter, and at about half-past two o'clock this morning he peacefully and quietly departed.

“ We have much to comfort us under this afflicting dispensation. What would have been the feelings of his affectionate relations and friends, if dear Henry's lot had been cast among entire strangers, or if the prospect of his change had been distressing to him ! Though fully sensible of his own unworthiness, trusting in the Redeemer's merits, he was enabled to look upon the king of terrors without dismay.

“ 12th mo. 21st. The remains of my departed companion were committed to the dust at about twelve o'clock. The body was taken into the meeting, which was held on the occasion, and L. M. bore public testimony to the calmness, patience, and resignation with which dear Henry was enabled to bear his sufferings. A death-bed is indeed a detector of the heart. May it prove to me a constant memento of my mortality.”

On the same day E. F. B. writes as follows :—  
“ I think I never felt more sensible of my own weakness, poverty, and insufficiency even to think a good thought than at this moment. May these feelings continue. I am left a little longer to struggle with the trials and temptations of time : if my eye be kept single I need not doubt that light will be afforded

sufficient to guide me safely along; but remembering the many times my foot has already slipped, I cannot regard my tarriance here below but as an event of no small importance. Were I only prepared how gladly would I speedily follow my dear young friend !”

The affectionate attention paid by E. F. Brady to his companion, in the delicate state of his own health, and the excitement attendant on the result, greatly affected him, and it was feared would tend to hasten the termination of his own life; but it was otherwise ordered. One was taken and the other left, doubtless for wise purposes, and on the 24th and 26th of 1st mo. 1825, from Congenies he writes as follows.

“ 1825. 1st mo. 24th. In looking back to the occurrences of the last five months, they appear almost like a dream. Little did I then think of ever leaving my native country, and still less did I anticipate the severe affliction which has befallen us. Though I cannot for a moment doubt that our loss is the *inexpressible gain* of my dear companion, yet at times my heart is tenderly affected at the recollection of the circumstances which have recently transpired. I consider it a privilege to have been with dear Henry, and to have been able, in some small degree, to administer to his comforts, at a time when he was separated from his nearest and dearest earthly connexions; his *patience, resignation, and Christian*

*demeanour* were calculated to convey deep instruction to all who beheld him. The impressions that were made on my mind, during his illness, but particularly at the awful moment of his dissolution, will not, I trust, be readily forgotten. When this solemn and important period arrives to any of us, what will avail us but an interest in the dear Redeemer? This, and this only, will prove to be an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast. It was this, I firmly believe, that supported Henry under much pain and suffering, and at length enabled him to look upon the king of terrors without dismay. He is gone, my dear friend, but a short time before us; and his immortal spirit is, I doubt not, eternally out of the reach of all care and sorrow. Oh that I may be prepared to follow him! The nature of *my* complaint, and the awful uncertainty of time loudly call upon me to be ready; that I may not be unexpectedly summoned to give an account of my stewardship. That I may sufficiently bear this important consideration in mind is my sincere desire."

The next letter, amongst other things, contains an account of some little improvement in his health.

"3rd mo. 10th. My health has, I think, improved since I last wrote to thee; though I have not at present derived so much benefit from upwards of four months' residence in this delightful climate, as I might have done under more favourable



circumstances. I can read during some hours in the day, but I am able to write but little at a time without subjecting myself to a return of pain in my side; fatigue of any kind also produces the same effect. The latter end of next month was, I think, the time proposed for my return. My health may greatly improve before that period, otherwise I must acknowledge, *which I do with great regret*, that I do not think I shall be able to endure the fatigue of travelling. I hope, my dear friend, thou wilt not think from this last remark, that I am dissatisfied or uncomfortable; I have much to make me otherwise. L. Majolier and wife treat me as though I were their son, and his children behave to me as they would to a brother; yet thou wilt not be surprised that England is rendered *doubly dear* to me by the recollection of the many kind relations and friends whom I left in it; and were my health sufficiently established, gladly would I again cross the Channel which now separates us.

“As the prospect of returning without this invaluable blessing, and of being a still further burden and trouble to my friends, is by no means an encouraging one, if it be thought best, I shall be willing to remain here longer than was intended.”

The following are extracted from his journal.

“5th mo. 1st. I have not been so well for a week or two, and to-day I felt unusually poorly.

“ My heart is not yet sufficiently weaned from this perishing world. O cast me not away from thy presence, and take not *thy* Holy Spirit from me. Bear with my infirmities, and enable me to overcome my temptations.

“ 5th mo. 11th. It seems probable that I may soon go to Geneva, the physicians thinking that a change of air will be beneficial to my health. Whether it produce this effect or not is very uncertain. I hope I shall not place too much dependence upon any thing outward. In looking back upon days that are passed, the query is sometimes raised—what shall I render for all the benefits received? Nothing short of the whole heart will be an acceptable sacrifice.”

On the 14th of 5th mo. 1825, he writes thus from Congenies:—

“ Taking a retrospective view of my life, it appears to have been one of continued blessings. When I consider the little return I have ever made, and the very imperfect surrender of heart to which I have yet attained, I feel discouraged and dismayed. Continue, my dear friend, to assist me with thy prayers, and may my feeble aspirations for a renewal of strength rise with acceptance at the footstool of Divine mercy! I cannot report much amendment in my health. My appetite has been very indifferent for some weeks past. My cough continues

troublesome at times, and I have occasionally some pain in the side. These symptoms the physician at Sommierres attributes to bile, for the removal of which I have taken medicine this week. He considers it very probable that change of air may be of great service to me, and recommends my leaving Congenies before long.

“ It was very pleasant to find that thou approved of Geneva as the place of my retreat, for two or three months, as my friends here, as well as myself, very much preferred this town to Lyons or St. Etienne.”

The following are extracted from his journal.

“ 5th mo. 17th. This evening many friends collected at L. M.'s for the purpose of taking leave of our dear friends M. Towill and J. and E. Charleton. It was an affecting and solemn opportunity. There was but little conversation, but what is far more desirable, there was something to be felt that is better than words. Dear L. M. was engaged in solemn supplication.

“ A variety of reflections contributed to affect my mind. The retrospect of the tender care of my friends towards my dear departed companion, of their very kind attention to me, ever since my arrival in these parts, and the prospect that we were about to take perhaps a final farewell of each other, excited my feelings in a way that I cannot express, till at length they found relief in sighs and tears. I have

been greatly favoured so long to have enjoyed their society, and am confident I am not alone in desiring that the protecting care and continued blessing of Israel's Shepherd may ever attend them.

“ 5th mo. 22nd. I have felt better every way the last three days than I have done for some weeks. I trust my mind is not unattended by grateful feelings.

“ Religion is an antidote to the severest trials of this life. Whatever events may happen to the Christian traveller, he may derive encouragement from the recollection that there is ‘ balm in Gilead.’ ”

## CHAPTER III.

*Goes to Geneva—Returns to Congenies—Remains there about six months—Extracts from letters—Returns to England—Visits his friend Joseph Binns and family—Appointed school-master at Croydon—Extracts continued—Married to Elizabeth Hutchinson.*

IT was concluded for him to spend some time at Geneva. In this journey he was accompanied by his kind friend Louis Majolier. They reached Geneva on the 16th of 6th mo. 1825, from whence, in the eighth month following, he writes as under.

“ The town of Geneva is irregularly built, owing to the unevenness of the ground. It contains about fifteen thousand inhabitants, many of whom are very intelligent and well informed. There are various societies for the promotion of literature and general knowledge, to the chief of which I have free access, as Dr. De Roche has kindly presented me with a card for admission. I expect it is somewhat on the plan of the London Institution, as there are two extensive libraries and reading-rooms be-

longing to the establishment. I have spent some hours there very agreeably. Relative to the manners of the inhabitants, from what I can learn and observe, they are very polite : their habits are, I think, more domestic than those of the French, though perhaps they are as fond of amusement as their volatile neighbours. In winter particularly much time is spent in visiting.

“ It is very common here for ten, twelve, or more persons to form a sort of society, and to visit alternately at each other's houses. A respectable Protestant minister, in the course of conversation, at Dr. De Roche's, observed, that he had witnessed a gradual improvement in the morals of the people within the last twenty-five years. He also said that he knew several heads of families who had left off visiting on a First-day, and who, in addition to attending their places of worship, were accustomed to assemble their families and domestics together, for the purpose of reading the Scriptures, &c. My observation of course does not extend very far ; but I should think that the inhabitants *generally are not very religious*. The environs of Geneva are very agreeable and picturesque, and some of the prospects are really delightful. The Genevois appear to be fond of public walks, which are very commodious in warm weather, as they are pleasantly shaded with lofty trees. The town is decidedly cleaner than any I

have passed through in France; and what is worthy of remark, we see no beggars. I accompanied my friend in the steam-boat round the lake of Geneva. In the course of the day I had considerable conversation with the Protestant minister of Plainpodaïs, whose name is Patu. He appears to be a pious, sensible, and agreeable man. He became acquainted with our friends W. Allen, Stephen Grellet, and Thomas Shillitoe, when they were at Geneva: he spoke in very high terms of them all, and thought their visits had done much good. He said that he attributed the improvements that have taken place in the prison here, in great measure to the exertion of the former, during his visit. He appeared to have a great respect for Friends, and expressed his belief that they were generally esteemed by persons who understood their principles."

In a letter dated 9th mo. 1825, he speaks in grateful terms of the kindness he met with at Geneva. It appears that on his return to Congenies he travelled by diligence, with but little fatigue. He arrived there about the 30th of the 9th mo. 1825, considerably improved in health, where he remained about six months longer; and in the 3rd mo. 1826, left that place for England, in company with John Yardley, Martha Savory, and Martha Towill. On the journey home he writes as follows:—

“ Chalons Sur Soane, 27th of 3rd mo. 1826.

“ As we have stopped this evening an hour sooner than we have generally done, I gladly embrace this opportunity of commencing a letter to thee. Thou wilt doubtless ere this have learnt, by a few hasty lines I sent to my brother from Lyons, that I left Congenies with our dear friends M. S., M. T., and J. Y. In addition to the advantage of travelling as they do, I consider it a privilege to be in their company; and in travelling quietly along yesterday I could not help feeling that this is another call upon me for gratitude. Though since we separated many circumstances have occurred, some of a very trying nature, the prospect of an early interview with my dear relations and friends is exceedingly pleasant to me. The journey, although attended with some fatigue, appears to have suited me remarkably well. I am better than when we set off, and should I continue to be so favoured, I hope to return to Steward-street stronger than I left it. The visit of our friends to St. Etienne has, I have no doubt, been satisfactory to them, although some of the poor people there do not appear to have made much religious progress since M. S. was there before. There are a few, from fifteen to twenty, who meet together on a First-day morning, to read the Scriptures, and afterwards they sit in silence: this is done in much



fear, owing to persecution. I have very little doubt that there are amongst them some real spiritual worshippers. It appears to be a remarkable time on the Continent: in divers places there are many persons whose eyes are enlightened to see the absurdities of the Roman Catholic religion; many have seceded, and numbers would follow their example, if they were not deterred by fear and other causes. Our friends have had interesting interviews with several of the former description, both in France and Germany. At St. Etienne our friends met with two young missionaries from Geneva, with whom they were a good deal interested. They follow their trades in their journey, and travel from a sense of duty. They believe in the influence of the Holy Spirit, and consider all preaching, without its assistance, as unprofitable; of course they do not write their sermons. They were present at two of the meetings our friends held. A belief in the guidance of the Spirit appears to be gaining ground greatly. A Protestant minister at Lyons, named ———, expressed his full unity with the doctrine. He was well acquainted with T. Shillitoe, during his stay in France, and spoke of him with great affection. We are now at Chanceaux, about thirty miles from Dijon, at which town we slept last night, and staid till the post arrived this morning. Our friend, M. Towell, received a letter from her brother, by which we were all sorry to find that her

sister continues alarmingly ill. This makes our friends anxious to reach England as soon as they conveniently can ; and if the horses continue well, and nothing occurs to prevent, we hope to cross the Channel in *about* a fortnight from this time, 29th 3rd month.

“ 1826. 4th mo. 14th. Arrived in England after an absence of eighteen months. I was very kindly received by all my friends. On the journey I could not but say that goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life ! May the query often arise in my mind—what shall I render for all benefits received ?”

On the 26th of 4th mo., accompanied by two Friends, he visited his friend Joseph Binns. It was a very affecting visit, and one not soon to be forgotten ; respecting which he says, “ Our feelings were strongly excited at the recollection of the loss our dear friends had sustained. Dear Joseph Binns was led to testify of the kindness of that great and good Being who had supported him under many trials. I was deeply affected in reflecting on what had happened since I last saw this family, and was led to revisit, in spirit, the chamber of sickness, and the bed of death.”

6th mo. 1st. He remarks, “ The Yearly Meeting closed under a feeling of great solemnity. Many sittings have been very large, and the business has

been conducted very satisfactorily. I have attended every sitting, which I consider a favour.

“6th mo. 5th. Favoured to be present at a parting interview between George and Ann Jones and some other friends. Considering the important prospect G. and A. J. have before them,\* I could not but contrast *their* dedication with my own want of faithfulness to little manifestations of duty. May they be preserved, strengthened, and comforted on their way, and may I not forget that it is not the hearers of the word, but the doers of it that are to be justified.

“7th mo. 8th. I received the affecting intelligence of the decease of my very dear friend Elizabeth Charlton. Her removal will be a great loss to her dear husband’s family and friends. The last time I had the privilege of seeing her was when I was confined to a sick bed, in the south of France. Her very kind attentions to me, during the whole of her stay at Congenies, and her sweet, amiable disposition greatly endeared her to my best feelings.”

The health of our dear friend having, by the blessing of Providence on the means used, been restored, and the symptoms of consumption removed, he was anxious to obtain suitable employment. Several things were thought of, but nothing seemed suitable for him, except to return to his former employment

\* Our friends G. and A. Jones were about to leave England to pay a religious visit to Friends in North America.

of teaching. On one occasion his memorandums contain the following remarks:—

“ 7th mo. 1826. An *advantageous* situation offering in Ireland, I had some thoughts of accepting it. On taking up a Testament I accidentally cast my eye upon this passage in James, iv. 13. ‘Go to now ye that say, to-day or to-morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell and get gain.’ This led me a little to think whether I was doing right in putting by another situation less advantageous in a pecuniary point of view. The consideration of the subject made me willing to give up the idea of going to Ireland. I hope I have decided rightly. I expect shortly to go to Croydon.”

In the 7th month, 1826, he accepted the vacant situation of school-master, and on the 17th of 9th month he remarks: “ I have now been at Croydon about ten weeks, and hope I did right in coming here. The situation of a teacher is indeed a trying one, though I believe a rich reward would attend the faithful discharge of duty.”

As we proceed in the perusal of the private memorandums of this our dear friend, we see much to admire in the deep humility by which they are characterized, and the faithful record which he kept of the state of his own mind. Although the extracts may appear to be more copious than some who were but

little acquainted with him may think desirable, yet we believe that most who peruse them, under right feeling, will acknowledge that they are fraught with instruction.

On the 27th of the 10th mo. 1826, we find the following, viz. "Our dear friend ——— spent about four hours at the school: he heard the boys and girls read, &c. and after dinner partially examined them collectively, as to their scriptural knowledge. A religious opportunity succeeded, in which he was remarkably engaged in supplication, and also in testimony. He addressed himself particularly to ——— and myself, and wished to encourage us in the discharge of *every* duty. The opportunity was to me affecting, and I hope encouraging. There was a remarkable coincidence between some of *his* observations and those of my endeared friend ———. How did they both endeavour to encourage us, weak and unworthy as we feel ourselves to be, fully to discharge every religious duty. How affectionately were we exhorted not to suffer unprofitable discouragement to prevail; but to lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset, remembering that the grace of God is sufficient to sustain under every trial and temptation. ——— observed to me, that if at any time I might feel my mind impressed with a few words towards the dear children, he hoped I should be en-

couraged to express them in simplicity, and he doubted not that in so doing I should reap a rich reward. A short time before leaving he quoted this passage of Scripture to me alone, ‘ And say to Archippus, take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.’\* I do at times feel as though the day may come, when it may be required of me publicly to advocate the cause of Him who hath not ceased to shower down his blessings upon me. At such seasons I feel sensible of my own utter unworthiness; and I do at this time earnestly desire, that whatever be the design of infinite Goodness concerning me, I may be made willing to submit thereto.

“ 1827. 2nd mo. 6th. Our dear friends ——— and ——— were at our meetings on First-day, in both of which the latter was engaged in testimony. In the morning meeting he particularly warned some present to guard against the sin of omission. On Second-day morning I spent a little time with him alone, very sweetly. The tendering effects of this little opportunity I think I continued to feel throughout the day.”

Extract of a letter to ———, 14th of 2nd mo. 1827. “ The time of sickness is often one of mental improvement. Thou hast latterly been laid upon the bed of pain and languishing

\* Coloss. iv. 17.

Who knows but our Heavenly Father, who is kind even in chastisements, may have intended these visitations for thy purification and refinement? Should this be his gracious design, how do I desire for thee that it may not be frustrated. The time may not be far distant when some of us will have to change this mortal for an immortal state of existence; happy will it be for us if it be even through great tribulation, (either mental or bodily,) that we enter the kingdom. Let us earnestly desire and pray, that these 'light afflictions, which are but for a moment, may work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.'"

On the 3rd mo. 28th, he thus writes to a friend :  
" Much instruction is often conveyed to the mind in the quiet and calm retreat. Thy path through life will probably, like that of many others, be a diversified one : mayst thou never forget that this is not to be thy resting place ; but that we seek another and a better country. Let this thought animate thee in adversity ; and in the time of prosperity may it moderate thy joy. May each succeeding year bring with it an increase of happiness, and mayst thou finally be permitted to join that innumerable company who are perpetually engaged in ascribing ' Great and marvellous ' to him who redeemed them.

" 10th mo. 26th. Tendered, I hope profitably, in sitting a little in the quiet."

“ 30th 10th mo. 1827.

“ To ———.

“ My last visit at thy house, though short, will not, I think, soon be forgotten by me. I have frequently recurred to it, and I hope shall continue to do so with profit. I do not remember when I have more clearly seen that for want of watchfulness I am not what I ought to be. Although my dear friend ——— entertains far too good an opinion of me, I certainly have not been without a secret belief at times, that it may some day be required of me publicly to advocate the cause of the dear Redeemer amongst men. Oh that I were worthy to testify of his forbearance, his long-suffering, and his love. Goodness and mercy have indeed followed me all the days of my life, and what return have I made for so many unmerited favours? My heart is indeed proud, obdurate, and unsubdued : before I am qualified to be *anything* I believe I must be willing to be *nothing* ; this I know I cannot effect of myself, and although I am fully convinced of my own insufficiency, yet I seem to go on, at times, apparently without a *desire* to be assisted by the only effectual *helper*. My poor mind has been a good deal tried of late, the enemy endeavouring to insinuate that it is useless and ineffectual to strive against sin. These are his suggestions, and I do, I hope, really desire to be enabled to withstand them.”



On the 11th of 11th mo. he writes: "Throughout the morning, both before meeting and during its continuance, my mind has been unusually impressed with an awful sense of the omnipresence of the *Almighty*. Oh that I may constantly bear in mind the solemn truth, that nothing can be hid from the eye of Him with whom we have to do.

" 1838. 4th mo. 3rd. What a rich reward attends the mind after any little exertion, to pursue a right course! I desire to be more frequently engaged to repair to the watch-tower, and there to abide.

" 9th mo. 25th. Passed the monthly-meeting at Kingston, in order for marriage with my dear friend Elizabeth Hutchinson. Having proceeded thus far in the important engagement, I am led a little to look back, and to consider how wonderfully I have been dealt with all my life long; goodness and mercy have indeed peculiarly followed me, and if I am not more faithful, it is to be feared they will be succeeded by judgment.

" 10th mo. 12th. I heard to-day of the recent decease of my cousin, Henry Brady, of Ackworth.

" How mysterious are the ways of Providence! A young man in the prime of life, and engaged in an active sphere of usefulness, separated from his sorrowing relations and friends.

" 10th mo. 13th. I have observed, with great re-

gret, a considerable decrease of serious feeling among the boys lately, and on endeavouring to account for it, I cannot help fearing that my own want of growth in best things may tend to retard their progress.

“I am sensible their affectionate feeling for me has diminished ; this may have been occasioned, *in part*, by my being particular in noticing little things, and by a harshness of manner that I think I have not been sufficiently careful to guard against. As long as children do not regard their teachers as their friends, there is but little good to be effected *in or with* them. I hope to be more watchful in future.”

On the 5th of 11th mo. 1828, the subject of this memoir was married to Elizabeth Hutchinson, who was then the principal school-mistress in the establishment.

“I was this day (E. F. B. writes) married to my dear friend Elizabeth Hutchinson, at Croydon. The feeling of solemnity that prevailed throughout the meeting, and in a sitting afterwards, in which our dear friend ——— was engaged in supplication on our behalf, was really comforting. May the good wishes of our friends be accomplished, and may we be enabled to strengthen each other in that which is right, both ever keeping in view the great object of our creation, the glory of God and the salvation of our immortal souls. I feel that the only way for me to be happy,

will be to give up more decidedly than I have hitherto done to the secret intimations of the Divine will concerning me."

1829. 3rd mo. 25th. He writes thus to a friend :  
" I agree with thee that the younger members of our society are particularly called upon to be consistent characters, to occupy with the talent committed to their trust ; and yet how few (I include myself among the number) are willing faithfully and constantly to bear the cross. Notwithstanding we know that the joys and pleasures of time are vain, transitory, and evanescent, and that the felicity to be revealed is enduring and eternal, and so great that it cannot be conceived, yet some of us cleave to the earth, as though we were to remain here for ever."

## CHAPTER IV.

*Again indisposed—Extracts from Journal—Letter to one of his pupils—Extracts from letters of the late Wm. Grover, &c.*

For some time past his health had appeared pretty firmly established, but the following memorandum, dated 20th of 5th mo. 1829, contains an allusion to an attack of hemorrhage. “About ten days ago I had a slight return of my old complaint. Although the discharge of blood was very trifling, yet its continuance indicates considerable weakness in some small vessels of the lungs. I hope, with care and quiet, soon to be able to resume my duties at the school, and that the opportunity for reflection, which my indisposition affords, may not be entirely lost. Even the desire after good, of late, has been so feeble as at times scarcely to be perceptible. From want of watchfulness I have been betrayed into many errors. May the record of my failings stimulate to more watchfulness.”

And on the 22nd of 5th mo. 1829, he adds—

“ Still detained at home by indisposition. Although illness is trying to bear, I believe it has often been sent to me as a blessing. I know I am apt, when in health, to forget from whom all my comforts flow. I desire that my present allotment may be serviceable to me, and that the impressions made in my solitary moments may not be so transitory as on some former occasions.

“ 5th mo. 25th. I am better to-day than I have been for some time past, for which I hope I do feel thankful. Oh, if it should please *Him*, against whom I have so often rebelled, to lengthen out my day of probation, may I devote myself more and more to his service !

“ Oh that I may be enabled to subdue my impetuous, my irritable passions, and to look unto Him who is omnipotent, for strength !

“ 5th mo. 27th. I spent more than an hour in school this morning, and do not feel the worse for it. I desire to be enabled to go in and out before my charge in a manner calculated to do them good. May I teach them, by *example*, that the subjugation of the passions is possible, when not attempted in our own will. I have need ever to be on the watch lest my hasty temper get the better of me. ‘Keep *thou* the door of my lips’ is a petition I shall do well ever to bear in remembrance.

“ 9th mo. 15th. Christopher Healy, from near

Philadelphia, had a large and satisfactory public meeting here.

“ This dear friend appeared not to be possessed of much book-learning, but he had evidently learnt in a better school—the school of Christ. He dwelt a good deal on the universality of Divine grace, on the grand doctrine of redemption, &c. &c. His address to those in low circumstances was very appropriate and affecting.”

The following letter was written to C—— F——, a youth about eighteen years of age, who had been one of his pupils.

“ 2nd mo. 1832.

“ My dear Young Friend,

“ I have thought much of thee since I saw thee yesterday, and I hope not to be troublesome in telling thee how greatly I feel interested on thy account. Although no opportunity offered for conversation of a serious nature, I trust our minds were mutually comforted in being together. It was truly pleasing to observe thy patience and calmness, and apparent meek acquiescence in the dispensation with which it has pleased a kind and all-wise Providence to visit thee; and a hope and belief arose in my mind as we were sitting together, that as thy outward man decays thy inward man may become stronger and stronger. Ah, my dear young friend, art thou not, at times, favoured to feel that it is good for thee

that thou hast been afflicted? and although thou mayst at seasons be cast down and encompassed with infirmities, cast not away thy confidence. Trust in the Lord, and wait patiently for him; and if he may at times appear to hide his face, be not discouraged, for he remains to be a God hearing and answering prayer, and ready to encourage the most feeble desire after good.

“ Dear C——, I need not tell thee thy situation is a critical one; but whether our lives be longer or shorter, it will matter but little, if we are favoured to land safely at last. What consolation we may derive from the recollection, that we have a High Priest who is touched with a feeling of our infirmities; and although for wise purposes we may not hastily be favoured with the comforting assurance that our sins are forgiven us for his name’s sake; yet, my dear young friend, may we remember, in every extremity, that He, the compassionate Redeemer, ever liveth to make intercession for us.

“ I wish not to multiply words, but thought I should feel best satisfied, in thus paying a little debt of love.

“ I would now recommend thee to the care of the unslumbering Shepherd. May he watch over thee by night and by day; may he make all thy bed in thy sickness, and, if consistent with his holy will, may he favour thee with the sensible enjoyment of

his presence, accompanied by the animating assurance, that at the end of thy course thou mayst, through adorable mercy, be admitted into that city 'whose walls are salvation, and whose gates are praise.'

"Farewell, thine,

"E. F. B."

This dear young man died about a week after the above was written—his close was peaceful.

"1832. 3rd mo. 30th. John Wilbur, from Rhode Island, sat with Croydon Friends. His testimony was marked by a beautiful simplicity that carried conviction with it. He spoke as a man who felt what he uttered. He thought there were some present whose sphere of usefulness had been much circumscribed for want of greater faithfulness and dedication, and from not yielding to convictions of duty at the time the reforming hand was upon them. He feared that some, instead of yielding to what appeared required of them, had said in effect, Go thy way for this time, when I have a more convenient season I will send for thee.

"He wished to encourage Friends individually to cultivate the spirit of prayer, and each to lay his own case in simplicity before his Heavenly Father. He thought there was much instruction in the command of our Saviour, 'to enter into the closet and



shut the door;’ entering into the closet of the heart and shutting out all worldly cares and thoughts: he considered it was of the highest importance to close in with the offers of Divine mercy at the time we might be favoured with the visitations of heavenly love, as we none of us knew that the call would be renewed.

“O may I more and more strive till I have attained. And, oh, thou Giver of all good, grant me nearer and nearer access unto thyself; enable me to overcome all my soul’s enemies, and to live daily, hourly, constantly in thy fear! ‘Set a watch, O Lord, upon my heart, keep thou the door of my lips.’”

In the year 1832 it appears, from his memoranda, that he had some thoughts of leaving his situation, in order to provide more amply for his family. On this head he remarks:—

“5th mo. 7th. Went to town to consult my dear friend ——— respecting a situation that has offered at Birmingham. Had a very satisfactory interview.”

The following is extracted from his journal.

“5th mo. 11th. If I remain at Croydon, even many years, there is but little prospect of my being able, with the greatest economy, to make much, if any, provision for my family. I can expect but little, if any, increase of my salary, as I consider the

committee have acted most liberally towards me ever since I have been at Croydon.

“ It is often a source of heartfelt pleasure to me to know that I can give satisfaction to my friends here, and to believe, at times, that my endeavours for the good of the children have not been in vain.

“ We are so comfortable in our little establishment, that we cannot contemplate a change without fear; being aware that we may never be so exempt from care; yet the desire to endeavour to make provision for the future is very strong, and is, we believe, a Christian duty.

“ After a good deal of consideration, not seeing my way clear to proceed, I do not think it would be safe to make any move. In coming to this conclusion, I hope I have done right, although my inclination leans the other way.

“ Oh that I had arrived at the Christian filial attainment of ‘ committing my way unto the Lord, trusting in him.’ ”

On the 24th of 6th mo. 1832, we find the following remarks:—

“ Dear ——— was at our meeting, and powerfully engaged in testimony. O! how did her remarks reach the witness in my mind. She was led to speak of the shortness of time, the certainty of death, and of a future state of rewards and punish-

ments. She said it was far from the design of the Father of mercies, that the contemplation of death and eternity should strike the mind with terror or gloom ; nevertheless it was a subject of the greatest importance, and ought to be the object of our chief attention. The necessity of witnessing a preparation for eternity was clearly manifested ; not that we were to suppose that by the performance of certain duties we should merit heaven. Oh, no ! But if we would be happy hereafter we must seek to witness a preparation for the enjoyment of the felicity to be revealed. The *mercy, love, long-suffering, and goodness* of God were abundantly spoken to—to all these my heart said amen. Has he not long, very long, borne and pleaded with me ? I feel it is of his mercy that my mind has been so disquieted of late, being sensible that my ways have not been well pleasing in his sight. Where has been that watchfulness, that renunciation of self and the world, that maintenance of the spirit of prayer, and of the feeling of my utter incapacity to help or preserve myself, to which I have been called ? Oh, if weighed in the balance I should indeed be found wanting.

“ I desire to be enabled to dwell under, and to profit by the feelings with which I have been favoured. I do indeed, at times, desire to renounce sin, and ever to be enabled to serve the Saviour ; but, oh, the

opposition there is in my own mind to the giving up of all that is required, this is at times so great, that I seem entirely deserted, and left to myself! Darkness and gloominess are then my portion, and no ray of comfort can I find. Oh, then, that I may stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. Oh! leave me not, neither forsake me, till I am what thou wouldst have me to be! If trials and disappointments are needful, may I not flinch from them. Oh! set a watch upon my heart—keep the door of my lips.

“In the evening meeting our dear friend began a very instructive address, with the encouraging expression, ‘To them who believe Christ is precious.’ She was comforted with the conviction that there were some of this happy number present. Although our dear friend believed that strict self-examination, and deep abasement were necessary, yet she thought there might be some present, who from a fear lest, after having taken some straight steps, they should be turned aside, and bring dishonour upon the Truth, were prevented from coming forward, and doing what they believed to be required of them. She thought all should dispossess themselves of this *slavish* fear, and remember that the subtle adversary is ever ready, by his insinuations, to mar all that is good; but his power is a limited power, and greater is *He* that

is in us, than he that is in the world. She wished to encourage all to lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset, and to run with patience the race that is set before them, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despised the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God, where he ever liveth to make intercession for us. What wonderful condescension, that He who possessed the power of putting Satan to flight with a word, should have endured temptation—was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin; otherwise he would not have been a High Priest, touched with a feeling of our infirmities.

“ It was not for us to know the design of infinite and unerring Wisdom concerning us, or to enquire what this or the other requiring would lead to; but to give up in child-like simplicity and obedience—to let patience have her perfect work.

“ Our dear friend, in the course of the testimony, observed, it was a humiliating consideration that we do not of ourselves choose that which is good. ‘ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you,’ &c.

“ In supplication she confessed there were many whose hearts, when under conviction, were warmed with desires after good. These good desires were

too frequently followed by listlessness and forgetfulness : (how descriptive of my state !) she begged forgiveness for all the sins of omission and commission

“ I believe I may derive deep instruction from what I have heard and felt this day ; my heart has indeed been laid open, and my conscience confessed to the truths declared, even as face answereth to face in a glass. How often have I refrained from any little requirings of duty, lest I might not be able to continue in well doing. May I ever bear in mind that He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world ; that he compassionates our infirmities, and ever liveth to make intercession for all who come unto God by him.

“ Attended the quarterly-meeting. Our dear friend S. Grellet said his mind had been deeply affected by the recollection of the circumstance that transpired even on the very eve of our Saviour's being delivered up to his enemies—no one being able to watch with him one hour ; all forsaking him and fleeing, even the positive Peter denying him for whom he had professed his readiness to offer up his life. Our dear friend seemed to wish Friends to have their minds prepared for some close trial that might be permitted, to prove them either as a society or as individuals. He thought there were many among those in early life, whose minds were under a

very precious visitation. Some, for want of faithfulness, and acting up to the convictions with which they had been favoured, were strangers to that peace which they had once enjoyed. He had remembered, with deep instruction, the situation of Saul of Tarsus, when he was in the street called Straight, 'Behold he prayeth.' This, he said, was a most profitable and blessed condition.

"9th mo. 27th, 1832. I regret that I have made no memorandum for some time past, as a good deal of an instructive nature has occurred. Even the retrospection of recorded failings might be very profitable. I have indeed cause to abhor myself, and repent, sitting as in dust and ashes. I appear to make no progress in best things, but at times rather to retrograde.

"To-day I felt astonished, affected, and I hope instructed, at hearing of the dedication of—— who has been faithful to an apprehended call to the ministry. Oh, that nothing may be suffered to harm him! May he grow and increase in that which is good!

"If my light be not already withdrawn, may I recollect what has forcibly impressed my mind at this time: 'Remember, therefore, whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do thy first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.' Rev. ii. 5.

“ Oh spare me that I may recover strength before I go hence and be no more ! Strength to do what I have at times apprehended to be thy will, O God ! Even that I should speak unto others of thy goodness to one who feels himself utterly unworthy of the least of thy multiplied blessings. Enable me to walk more by faith.

“ 10th mo. 4th, 1832. I have been enabled to maintain the watch over my temper more the last few days than for some time past. I hope I make the acknowledgment with feelings of gratitude. I desire to *maintain* the watch, as in times past ; when I have been favoured with any little feeling of good, the enemy has often subsequently come in upon me like a flood. Oh, for ability to say ‘ Get thee behind me !’

“ 10th mo. 24th. In sitting with my dear friend —, he observed, he believed it would be best for him to say but little relative to the contents of my last letter. He sympathized with me under my mental exercises. He believed I was under the forming hand of Divine power, and hoped I should be preserved faithful unto death.

“ This was very confirming to me, as I have felt fully convinced that I must not depend too much upon my fellow-creatures, nor do I think it would be right for me to desire much outward advice from any. Nothing but a full surrender of the heart will



do : there must be no reserve ; my whole will must be given up, and my affections fixed *entirely* on things *above*.

“ I am more and more astonished that I can have lived so long without striving, above all, after the one thing needful. Earth and its enjoyments do appear less and less desirable in my view, and unworthy the pursuit of an immortal being. [Sensible as I feel of my own weakness, I know, O God ! that thou art omnipotent ! Every prayer of thy begetting thou wilt graciously accept. O enable me to say, in truth and sincerity, my heart is fixed to do thy will, let it be ever so greatly in the cross to my own inclination.

“ 11th mo. 4th, 1832. — was at our meeting and strikingly engaged in testimony, commencing with, ‘ If I have any exhortation to you, my friends, it may be comprised in a very few words. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.’ He believed that at different periods there might be particular messages to particular churches, to a separate church, or to individuals. It was a complaint against some formerly, that they had stopped their ears and blinded their eyes. It was one of the many devices of the grand adversary, to prevent the spiritual ear from being kept open. He went about not only as a roaring lion, seeking whom he might devour ; but as a subtle, cunning serpent,

seeking whom he might deceive and betray; transforming himself even as into an angel of light. Our dear friend said he could testify from experience to the danger, after having taken some lessons in the school of Christ, of resting in degree satisfied short of the true rest.

“After the evening reading our dear friend addressed the children in a powerful and very impressive manner. He said he should be sorry, by anything he might have to offer, to turn the minds of any present from the monitions of that inward teacher, with which he hoped many were well acquainted. He said he had felt a jealousy, lest from the frequent opportunities we enjoyed, of hearing and reading the Divine truths of the Gospel, we might become in degree regardless of their *vital importance*. He cautioned any against being satisfied with a mere knowledge of Scripture, however extensive it might be. One of the distinguishing peculiarities and privileges of the Gospel was, that it was so plain that he that runs may read. It was intelligible to the ignorant and unlearned, and even to little children. He recommended them to give implicit heed to the Spirit of Christ in the heart, even if an attention to its dictates were to subject them to the ridicule of their companions.

“He supplicated for the whole family, and entreated that the heads and teachers of it might be

imbued more and more with a spirit of love, with a spirit of judgment, and of a sound mind. He expressed his earnest desire to me that the children should be encouraged to apply the truths of Scripture to daily practice. It was remarkable, he observed, that almost *every Scripture precept* had a practical bearing. In taking leave of me, he bade me affectionately farewell, and said he sympathized with me under my various difficulties and exercises.

“ 11th mo. 5th. The anniversary of our marriage. It is a great favour, in looking back, to see how bountifully we have been cared for, and how happily we have lived together. May there be a care maintained not to centre in the gifts, but to render unto the Giver all that appertains to Him—gratitude and perfect obedience.

“ How strikingly did the remarks of ——— coincide with the recorded opinions of the late W. Grover. ‘ It is very gratifying to the natural mind to have a very full and comprehensive view of the subject of religion at the *beginning* of the work ; but the religion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ appears to be very differently intended to be opened to the mind ; beginning frequently with a little light or manifestation of the Divine will, as to some point or part of duty. And as obedience is yielded to this small manifestation, let it be respecting whatsoever it may, greater and greater degrees of light and strength

are afforded, to follow on to know more and more of the Divine will, and of Divine things. This is very humbling to the natural mind, which would willingly begetting on faster ; but the real Divine manifestations of *light* and *life* must be humbly waited for, and the mind clothed with reverence and fear, lest it get on in its own wisdom, and mix something of its own with the communication of Divine *light* and *life*. And in this reduced, dependent, humble state, as any thing is made known from the source of all true good, I believe a sweet, substantial, satisfying peace will attend it, which all the exertions of the mind, in its own wisdom, cannot afford.'—*W. Grover's Letters*, p. 62.

“ Again, ‘ I have thought many would like to feel the comforts of religion ; but miss it from expecting to find some *great thing* to begin with ; whereas, perhaps, the way appointed for *most*, is to begin with something very little ; and it would be well, when our minds are exercised and grieved, that we feel little or no capacity towards good, to consider whether there is not something manifested that we are not yielding to. Perhaps this is the very thing which is to be the *door* of entrance into the path of life, and of increasing consolation and experience of good.’ (p. 60.)

“ 11th mo. 16th, 1832. I yesterday suffered anger to arise, in which spirit I rebuked some of the

children in a manner unprofitable to them and to myself. It is indeed of the 'Lord's mercies that I am not consumed, because his compassions fail not.' Oh! then, that I may 'declare my iniquity unto Him, and be sorry for my sin.'

" 11th mo. 17th — and — took tea with us. In a sitting afterwards, the latter addressed us very instructively and encouragingly. She recommended us to enjoy the blessings of this life with a constant reference and grateful feeling towards the bountiful Giver; not to centre in the gifts, but to eye the light, and walk in it, that we might become children of the light and of the day. She addressed a few words to me in particular—she believed the path for me to walk in had been clearly shown to me. She wished to encourage me to faithfulness and diligence, that I might unreservedly do the will of my Heavenly Father. She said it was given her very unexpectedly to express that she believed that a time of sifting was coming upon our Society—that we, as a people, should have to show on whose side we were, and to be more conspicuously and eminently useful than we had been of late times—that those who had been resting in the *dead letter* would be driven away as chaff before the whirlwind, but that those whose building was upon 'the Rock of Ages,' would not be moved. She wished to encourage us to walk uprightly in the midst of a perverse

and crooked generation, and each to form the resolution of good Joshua formerly, that ‘ Let others do as they may, as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.’

“ She said she believed that *early impressions* were most lasting, and therefore it was of the highest importance that those in the station of parents and caretakers of children should be very watchful that their *whole* demeanour, their expressions, and common conversation might be such as they might safely follow ; that their spirits might be so preserved, that the leaven of them might be apparent to the children, and have a beneficial influence upon them ; that we might at all times be concerned that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts might be acceptable in the sight of an all-seeing God.”

On the First-day, the 18th of 11th month, 1832, he writes as follows :—

“ ——— and ——— were both engaged in testimony in meeting. The latter observed, that her mind had been peculiarly impressed throughout the meeting with the consideration of the proneness of the human mind to delay, and to put off till another period the business of the present moment. This was a state of peculiar danger as regarded things of the highest moment. How often, on any manifestation of duty, were we ready to put it off till a

more convenient season. I pray thee have me excused till I have a little more strength, till the performance of the requiring will be less in the cross. 'Ah!' continued she, 'when the solemn period arrives for putting off mortality, we shall none of us wish to be excused from entering the kingdom of heaven.' The necessity of walking by faith was plainly pointed out, and the desirableness of yielding obedience to every manifestation of duty, in *childlike simplicity*; not consulting with flesh and blood, nor refusing to comply, because the requiring might appear so simple and so opposite to the dictates of human wisdom. Our dear friend could testify from sorrowful experience to the danger of delaying and putting off the business of the present moment. She said, we were at best but *short-sighted* creatures, and ill qualified, in our own wisdom, to know the right time for the performance of any duty. She desired for those present, that they might be favoured with the sincere milk of the word, that they might grow thereby; that they might advance from the state of babes to that of young men, and that eventually they might become fathers in the church.

"As in the outward world it would be in vain for the husbandman to look for an increase, unless the earth were properly prepared and broken, and the seed sown at the right period; so the heart must be fitted

and prepared for the reception of the heavenly seed.

“ In the afternoon our dear friend — observed, that the Christian’s life was a continual warfare. She thought there might be some present who were in danger of being too much discouraged and cast down by a sense of their own weakness. She advised such, instead of dwelling too long under this feeling, to look *right on*, to keep their eye steadily fixed upon the unconquered Captain of Salvation, to embrace the help that was offered by Him that is mighty to save, to move on steadily with the grain of faith that might be afforded.

“ It is one of the devices of the enemy, when he cannot raise the mind, and induce it to undertake that to which it is neither called nor qualified, greatly to depress. Some, she continued, who had striven a long time, were ready to conclude they had made no progress, and therefore they would give up the contest. She advised such to embrace the means that were provided for them, and to resolve to bear the indignation of the Lord, because they had sinned against him, and that though he should slay them, yet they would trust in him ; and that if they perished they would perish at his footstool. Our dear friend was engaged in supplication, after the children’s reading in the evening.

“ She craved, that in this part of the vineyard,



and from among those present, qualified instruments might be raised up to exalt the standard of truth in the earth.

11th mo. 18th, 1832, he writes thus: "I was a good deal struck in reading the following passage, in one of the letters of the late S. Grubb:—

" 'As to opening my mouth in meetings, it seems as far from me as if I had never known such a concern. A *painful gloomy* exercise, or a *wandering imagination* is what I have principally to travel through; and yet having been acquainted with a situation of mind much more destitute than this, I dare not but consider the invisible support my soul is blessed with, as an object of reverential gratitude.'

"Surely if servants, dedicated as she was to the service of the Great Master, are thus at times left destitute, it cannot be wondered at that I, who have so long rebelled against revealed light and knowledge, should have to sit, meeting after meeting, as in a dry place.

"11th mo. 24th. I rose this morning with very little feeling of good, but in my quiet sitting, after reading a portion of Scripture, and some of the preceding memoranda, I was melted into tenderness, and could not refrain from tears. The low valley of humility and contrition is a safe spot. May I more and more cultivate an abiding there.

“ 12th mo. 8th. Our dear friend — was a good deal exercised in meeting. He expressed his conviction that there were some, even in that small company, who, if faithfulness were abode in, would have to show more conspicuously than had hitherto been the case on whose side they were.

“ My dear E. and I accompanied our friend — to Westerham. On our way thither he made some instructive remarks respecting religious conversation. He thought that if the minds of Friends were not so immersed in the cares and pursuits of this world, suitable opportunities of religious converse would more frequently present themselves. He believed, in the early times of the society, Friends were a good deal in the practice of meeting together in this way, to mutual benefit.

“ In the meeting our dear friend remarked, that he thought there was deep instruction, as well as great encouragement, to be derived from the address of our Lord to Peter: ‘ Simon, Satan hath desired to have thee, that he might sift thee as wheat; but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not.’ He believed there were some present who had been called to forsake a good deal of what they formerly considered as essential to the right performance of the solemn duty of worship. He desired that none might rest here; but to whatever state they might have attained, that they might press forward, guard-

ing against a spirit of self-congratulation. He thought there was much instruction in the account of Moses performing the miracles before Pharaoh—the magicians, with their enchantments did the same. So in the present day, the great magician and enchanter went about seeking to deceive and to betray those whom he could not openly destroy. Bear in mind, my dear friends, that he can transform himself as into an angel of light. Oh that he may not enter into your little enclosure.”

In conversation with the Friend before alluded to, E. F. B. observes, “ With reference to a remark of mine, as to the fear of falling away, after having made some straight steps, he said that he believed that it would not do to *dwell* too much under this feeling, although he thought it might safely act as a caution, in all our movements of a religious nature. He said he could acknowledge for himself, that frequently, in the course of his present arduous engagement, a fear attended his mind, lest, after having presented to others the way of life and salvation he himself should be a cast-away. The great business was, to move on in simple faith, doing one day’s work at a time, and not thinking too much of consequences. On my remarking how difficult I found it to divest myself of my own thoughts, willings, and runnings, he said he could sympathize with me fully

in this respect. How did I long to open my mind more fully to our dear friend; but my tongue seemed to refuse to give utterance to the feelings of my heart. Well, there is *one* that knoweth all things; may He strengthen my desires more and more, nay, fully, to yield myself to his disposal. Oh, subdue my will, and enable me to watch over the enemies of my own heart."

1833. 4th mo. 13th.—In a letter addressed to — he says, "Independently of the necessity of one day of rest to the body, is no time to be allowed for the most important of all duties, that of worshipping our Creator? Do not, I entreat thee, leave the concerns of eternity in the back-ground. I consider *our* lives as very uncertain; and we shall neither of us find, even if we are not called *suddenly* hence, that we have been too thoughtful about a future and never-ending state of existence. Remember who has power to blast all our efforts; and can we expect his blessing to attend us, unless we act in such a manner as we believe will be well-pleasing in his sight? Thy sources of temporal happiness are not unalloyed, and wilt thou voluntarily deprive thyself of felicity incomparably greater? I do not write thus believing I have already attained to this desirable state, or supposing myself already per-

fect. Oh, no! but there are times of calm reflection, when for my dear relatives, as well as for myself, I contemplate with a longing eye, and covet with an earnest heart, that we may at last attain the prize of our high calling."

## CHAPTER V.

*Attack of influenza—Letter to a young friend—Sickness in the School—Visits Ramsgate for the benefit of his health—Appointed superintendent.*

IN the 5th month of 1833, E. F. B.'s health became again delicate, and he was liberated from his duties for a short time, which he records with grateful feelings.

“ I have been unwell for some time with lumbago, influenza, &c., and at our last committee, on sixth-day week, Friends were so kind as to propose that I should rest awhile and recruit my strength. This mark of their kind consideration was very grateful to my feelings, and I hope not to forget it. Yesterday week our very kind friends W. F. Reynolds and his wife called to invite me to return with them on fourth-day, to try the benefit of change of air, &c.; here I have been treated with the *greatest* kindness, no pains spared to make me comfortable, and to promote my reco-

very. May I encourage feelings of gratitude to the Almighty, and to my kind benefactors. I am certainly much better than I was, though I am still very far from well. I do not know when I suffered more bodily pain than I have done during this indisposition. At times I feel very low, my complaints appear so lingering; but instead of repining I know I ought to cultivate grateful feelings; goodness and mercy have indeed followed me hitherto. What have I yet rendered? Oh that I may be made willing to become just what I ought to be."

Whilst at Carshalton, on the 22nd of 5th mo. 1833, he wrote a letter to a young friend, from which we have made the following extracts:—

"In the first place, allow me to say I am glad to observe that thy mind is awakened to a lively sense of the great importance of the one thing needful.

"Be not too much discouraged, or cast down by a feeling of thy own sinfulness. Let not the consciousness of the depravity of the human heart induce thee to think it is useless to go on striving. Remember 'help is laid upon One that is mighty,' even upon Him who has said, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I *will* give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me.' We must not stop short with a mere conviction of our sinfulness; but we must resolve, in the strength

that is afforded, to forsake all that we know to be wrong.

“Thou laments thy ineffectual endeavour to become religious! Might it not be attended with advantage calmly to look back, to consider whether thou mayst not have made some resolutions of amendment in thy own strength, forgetting that of ourselves we can indeed do no good thing.

“And here let me earnestly entreat thee to banish from thy mind the dangerous doctrine of election and reprobation: this I consider a most fatal error for the young Christian to fall into. This is one of the most potent snares of the grand adversary of human happiness, who seeks not only to allure and to deceive, but eventually to destroy! Trouble not thyself with those parts of the Scripture which may *appear* to thy inexperienced mind to bear upon this doctrine. Is there not *abundant* testimony, from Genesis to Revelations, that the ever-adorable Redeemer came to seek and to save that which was lost. Canst thou not believe that He is not willing that *any* should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Is it consistent to believe that He who is emphatically styled *Love*, has predestined unborn myriads to eternal misery? The bare thought is dreadful.

“Read J. J. Gurney on Redemption. Store thy mind with those parts of Scripture which so abun-



dantly and fully support this all-important doctrine. Should thy mind continue in its present unsettled state, canst thou do better than disclose thy feelings to thy dear parents, that thou mayst have the benefit of their counsel and their prayers. Religion is too sacred a subject to be handled lightly, or to be made a topic of common or frequent conversation with the young and inexperienced. In most cases I should think its effects would be more lastingly beneficial, when it is suffered *quietly*, but *steadily*, to perform its office on the heart. Thou seemest oppressed with the burden of sin : from this feeling I would not turn thy attention ; but we must *pray for ability* to overcome the sin that doth so easily beset, and we may remember, for our encouragement, that if any one sin we have an advocate with the Father, even Him who is touched with a feeling of our infirmities.

“ If any one lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men *liberally* and upbraideth not.’ Continue then to cultivate a disposition that would lead thee to the practice of daily watchfulness unto prayer. Spread thy wants before thy Heavenly Father with Christian boldness.

‘ Thy evening end, thy morn with prayer begin,  
For Heaven’s true sabbath is, to cease from sin.’

“ Listen not to the subtle insinuations of the

great tempter. How oft would he persuade us that our sins are of too deep a dye to be forgiven. At such times may we look to Him who taketh away the sins of the world, and in his strength may be enabled to say, 'Get thee behind me, Satan.' Farewell, my dear young friend, and may I, in conclusion, earnestly commend thee to Him who alone is able to build thee up, and to keep thee from falling. May the language of thy heart be, 'Though he slay me yet will I trust in him, and if I perish I will perish at *his* footstool.

" Thy sincere friend,

" E. F. BRADY."

" 7th mo. 10th, 1833. Our dear friend — was earnestly engaged in testimony. He said he believed it was a time of peculiar visitation to many members of our society; that much, very much, depended upon *individual* faithfulness; that a great work was on the wheel, and he desired that no vessel might be marred. He thought no one knew how much this great work might be promoted by *individual* faithfulness. He believed there were many, who, like himself, had to go mourning on their way. They must not expect always to drink of the cup of rejoicing, or to accompany the Saviour only when riding triumphantly into Jerusalem; they

must be willing to go with him unto Calvary's mount."

In this month considerable indisposition prevailed in the school, and at the recommendation of two physicians the children were dismissed for a time. Elizabeth Brady was amongst the invalids, and it was deemed advisable for E. F. B. and his wife to get change of air. They accordingly went to Ramsgate, and whilst there E. F. B. applied for the situation of superintendent, which had become vacant by the resignation of his predecessor. On the 13th of 8th month he went to London to meet a sub-committee on the subject of his application, and subsequently remarks :—

"If the recommendation of the sub-committee should be carried into effect, our duties and responsibility will be greatly increased. May the desire for best help grow in proportion."

In writing to a friend, during the absence of the children from the school, he says :—

"What a favour will it be should they all be permitted to return in health. The threatened scourge that appeared to hang over us does seem to have been remarkably suspended : it may only be delayed. Let us hope we may be so humbled by this visitation that similar trials may not be permitted soon to befall us. We may all look back upon the

past, I think, with deep instruction; and, I doubt not, the true Christian will be divested of all anxiety as to the future, knowing that all things are ordered by Him who is infinite in wisdom, and boundless in love and mercy.

“ The message of love from thy dear brother was truly acceptable. I often think of him, and according to my measure wish him well on his way. May nothing be permitted to harm him. Discouragement will no doubt often be his portion, but the promise is to those who endure to the end. Many, I fully believe, are called to the work,\* to which he has been strengthened to put his hand; but, alas, how few there are who are not kept back by the care, the fear, or the love of the world. Whilst I am writing, I am fully sensible how little progress I have made in the Christian course; yet in my more favoured moments I would fain hand, if it were but a crumb, or a cup of cold water, to any one who, like myself, may feel surrounded with difficulties and borne down by discouragement. No one can foresee what the faithfulness of *one* individual may lead to. Indeed there is that scattereth and yet increaseth, increaseth the peace and comfort of the dedicated servant, by whose faithfulness those who are as it were halting, may be strengthened to hold on their way.”

\* That of the ministry.

In the same letter he says, with reference to his being about to apply for the situation of superintendent :—

“ Should Friends be pleased to make trial of my services, I have no doubt whatever thou and I shall be able to go on as harmoniously as we have hitherto done. May we not hope that our ability will increase with our duty and responsibility. Our highly important and deeply interesting station calls for great watchfulness and circumspection. Truly we have need of a wise and understanding heart to go in and out before the dear children. Let us then, my dear young friend, bear one another’s burdens, and watch over each other for good.”

“ 8th mo. 21st, 1833. I reached Croydon at six. I have been better these three days, and desire to feel thankful for the improvement, if it be only temporary. In contemplating the probability of being placed at the head of this large establishment, the desire does, I trust, increase, that we may more and more seek to be imbued with wisdom superior to our own. Watchfulness ought to be the continual covering of our minds.” He further adds, “ May I seek not to speak too hastily, never to make rash assertions, to avoid threatenings, either to the children or others, and never to do any thing that I should be sorry to see imitated by others.

“ 9th mo. 12th. To-morrow will be the meeting

of the committee, when I expect it will be decided whether we shall be placed at the head of the institution or not. Whatever determination may be come to, I hope it will be for the good of the establishment, and that we shall be satisfied. We have been very much preserved from anxiety on the subject. My health, though by no means re-established, is much improved since I consulted Dr. Graham. Should I get perfectly well, how grateful I ought to be. Come what may, I desire to believe that all things will work together for good.

“9th mo. 13th, 1833. My dear E. and myself were appointed to the important station of superintendents of Croydon school. May our reliance be more and more placed upon Divine assistance, for without it what are we, or what can we do?”

On the 5th of 12th month we find the following interesting entry in his journal :—

“My mind has for a length of time been a stranger to that peace to which I have often longed to attain. Why is it thus? Because I know I have not made a full surrender of my heart and affections. The *one thing* needful is, I trust, precious in my estimation. Why then am I not more and more engaged in *earnest* to seek after it. I have been now nearly three months at the head of this interesting establishment. Things appear to have gone on very comfortably, and to the satisfaction of friends. I

am blessed with a dear and affectionate partner, a real helpmate, and with two lovely children. No outward comfort is wanting, and I am, I believe, respected in my situation.

“ All this is insufficient to afford that soul-sustaining peace, which I firmly believe is worth giving up all to attain. Much indeed has been committed unto me, and doubtless much will be required.

“ I feel I have lost ground for want of more frequent retirement and self-examination, and although I acknowledge it as an unmerited favour, that frequently when I have awoke in the night, or at the return of the morning dawn, my thoughts have been directed heavenward ; yet from want of cultivating an abiding here, how soon has my mind been hurried hither and thither, and tossed about and not comforted. As my duties have increased, so has the need of watchfulness unto prayer. What have I lost, to what have I not attained, for want of cultivating a renewed and frequent intercourse with my Maker ! I feel He has long been waiting to be gracious. Oh that in anger He may not shut up his tender mercy ! I desire to record I hope with some degree of reverent thankfulness, the tendering impressions with which I have been favoured to-day. Though I may consider it as a brook by the way, of which I feel myself unworthy to partake, yet would I desire to thank thee, O Father of mer-

cies, for this unmerited favour. At the same time, may I not rest satisfied here, but, as the children of Israel formerly were commanded to gather the manna *daily*, so may I ever remember the need I have *daily, hourly*, and constantly, of holy aid, not forgetting that without it I can indeed do nothing."



## CHAPTER VI.

*Extracts from memoranda and letters—Birth of a daughter—  
Examination of the children by a friend—Affection of the  
spine—Illness of his wife—Decease of Mary Gurney—  
Further extracts.*

“12th mo. 19th, 1833. I attended the monthly-meeting at Wandsworth, at which our dear friend —— had to testify his belief that some present had that morning been permitted to partake of ‘honey out of the rock.’ But it had been given him to see, that there were those, who, if they had been faithful, and yielded to the pointings of duty, would ere this have been made preachers of righteousness, and have had to testify to others the way of life and salvation. ‘Oh,’ continued he, ‘how ready we all are to *receive* blessings at the all-bounteous Hand! but how backward to *give* in return.’

12th mo. 29th. I have this day attained the age of thirty-one years! and in looking back feel humbled under the consideration of the little progress I am sensible of having made in the road towards the

kingdom of heaven. At the same time may I commemorate the goodness of the Almighty in that He hath not left himself without a witness in my heart."

On the 22nd of 1st month, 1834, he records the birth of another little girl.

29th of 1st month he observes : " Our dear friend — was at our meeting, and engaged in supplication and testimony. He appeared much exercised on account of some present, who though they were glad to hear good spoken, and the way of truth proclaimed by others, yet were very unwilling to come forward themselves ; but always ready with, ' I pray thee have me excused till a more convenient season. Send by whom thou wilt send, but not by me. He believed there were those present, who instead of rejoicing at any little manifestation of the Divine will, were ready to repine and be sorrowful. Such, while in this state, would never know what it was to enjoy perfect peace. She addressed the children in a very impressive manner, and at the conclusion of her testimony remarked, the offers of mercy had been, and were still extended, but we none of us knew how soon they might be withdrawn.

" 1834. 1st mo. 31st. I have been a little in the quiet this evening, in which I have deeply seen and felt that I have suffered my mind, for the last two or three weeks, to be too much engrossed by at-

tention to my lawful business. Oh, how busy and *apt* is the enemy to choke the good seed of the kingdom! Oh that I may not be abandoned till I attain what my poor mind at times longs for—peace with God.

“ 4th mo. 24th, 1834. Monthly meeting at Croydon, at which our dear friend — was engaged in testimony and supplication. He seemed to think, unless some present gave up more than they had yet done, to follow their Lord and Master, (as he would have a spiritually-minded people,) others would be invited in their places, to whom would be given their once proffered crowns. He appeared to think there were some who were wandering on the barren mountains of a mere profession of religion.

“ 4th mo. 29th Heard that my dear father-in-law had had, on First-day last, another severe paralytic attack. Oh, if this be intended as an immediate precursor of the final change, may he be favoured to witness a preparation. May my dear E. and her mother be supported. How short-sighted indeed we are!

“ 6th mo. 21st. This morning we expect — to examine the children in the Scriptures. May *their* hearts and *ours* be open to receive any thing he may have to impart.

“ Sixth-day evening. A day ever to be remembered. — was indeed *wonderfully* helped, and

led beautifully to explain and elucidate different parts of Scripture to the dear children. May a blessing accompany his labours : may *all* profit by that which was designed for them, and may he reap a rich reward. After the examination his address to the dear children was very impressive. He also supplicated for the different officers in the family, from the highest to the lowest, and also for the dear children. He appeared to think there was something more for some of us to do : to me he was very pointed—he hoped I should go in the strength afforded.

“ Our dear friends —— and ——, who are on religious service in our meeting, had a public meeting on First-day, which was largely attended : they sat with my dear E. and myself at the meeting-house. Their communications were striking. —— took a brief survey of the multiplied blessings that had been showered down upon me, from my youth up. He referred to the early visitations of Divine love with which he believed I had been favoured, and said he had been impressed with the belief that the language might be applicable, ‘ I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.’ Jer. ii. 2. He adverted to the different periods in which I had been brought as from the grave’s mouth ; he believed.

with the design that I should be made useful to others. He had long thought that the path of duty had been marked out to me ; and although I might at times be greatly humbled, and brought as it were to the dust, under a feeling of my own poverty, weakness, insufficiency, and unworthiness, yet he would say, ‘ Rejoice in the Lord ; arise, quit thee like a man, and be strong in the Lord.’

“ Our dear friend advised against yielding unprofitably to discouragement, thereby giving the enemy an advantage over us : suffer him not to trample you under foot. He believed the panoply of Divine love was extended towards us—advised us to stand fast in the liberty wherewith he believed Christ would make us free, and not to be entangled again with *any* yoke of bondage. He cautioned me against the fear of man, or the combined power of the spirits of darkness.

“ Our dear friend M. G., in her testimony, observed, that if so eminent an apostle as Paul had to declare he walked by faith, and not by sight, no wonder if those who were far less gifted had to make the same acknowledgments. She spoke of the awful danger of delay in religious matters, of the necessity of faith ; and if the pillar of the cloud went before us by day and the pillar of fire by night, we might depend upon being led safely along. She sweetly alluded to the different spheres of religious service that were allotted

to us, and that some were indeed led in a way in which they appeared to themselves totally unqualified to walk; the promise was ‘Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God; and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.’<sup>1</sup>

“Ah! how hard and impenetrable has my heart been of late, even as adamant. I hope I am thankful in having it, as it were, broken in pieces to-day. O may the sorrow I now feel be of that godly sort that worketh the repentance not to be repented of! May I abide humble in the dust. And, oh! whether I am to be *any thing* or *nothing*, may my duty be clearly pointed out to me, and may I be enabled to do it!

“In the name of thy dear Son, I entreat thee, ‘Cast me not off from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. O! restore unto me the joys of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit; then (if it be thy will) enable me to teach transgressors thy ways, and to convert sinners unto thee.’ Even so, amen.

“21st of 11th mo. 1834. I hope I can record

<sup>1</sup> Rev. iii. 12.

with some feelings of thankfulness, that I have for the last two days been preserved more watchful.

“ My mind has lately been led in a way very unusual for me. I think I never was more fully sensible of my own weakness, nor was ever more alive to my own incompetency, of myself, to do any thing to promote that cause which is at times precious in my sight; yet I have also thought the enemy has long had an advantage over me, in this respect; making me imagine, that, because of my *numerous* imperfections, I must never attempt, even when under better influence than my own reason, to make an effort to declare unto others what has been done for me. That this duty *might* be required of me has long been my impression. Why need I hesitate at making a *full* surrender? remembering who has said, ‘ My grace is sufficient for thee ;’ ‘ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you.’ It is not for me, a poor, frail, erring worm, to say, What doest thou? May I rather strive after ability to say, ‘ Do with me as seemeth thee good.’ I trust I do begin to feel the value and efficacy of the atonement. I have been too long striving to render myself, if I may use the expression, *worthy* of Divine regard. I hope I feel I have nothing now to trust to but the *free* and *unmerited* mercy of God in Christ Jesus. Humbled under a

sense of his unbounded love, I do desire to commit myself to his good keeping."

12th mo. 17th. In a letter to his wife he writes:—"I hope dear J. L. is sensible of his precarious condition. May he, as his outward strength decays, witness, through redeeming love and mercy, a preparation for a state of eternal felicity. If we are satisfied of the safe landing of those who are gone before us, their condition is an enviable one. I do believe, and I have thought increasingly of late, that some who are united in the closest of earthly ties, miss much spiritual enjoyment, by not sufficiently following the example of some, of whom it is recorded, 'Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another.' Ah! my dearest E., a feeling sense of our unworthiness ought not to deter us from remembering, and commemorating the boundless mercy, and infinite forbearance and compassion of Him who is calling for an undivided heart. If we wait till we are worthy of his goodness, when will that period arrive?

"I have been much troubled by a weakness and projection of the spine, which seems likely to be assisted by some artificial help I have procured from London."

In reference to his father, and a visit he had paid him, he writes, under date, 22nd of 4th month, 1835:—



“ I went to see my dear father ten days ago, and found him much as I expected. He is at times very low. May these seasons tend to profit! He told me he often shed many tears, when no one saw him, on taking a retrospect of his life. I encouraged him to confide in the mercy of God in Christ Jesus; reminded him of the comfort and privilege it is to know that acceptable prayer may be offered to him without the utterance of words. He told me he often prayed to God to soften his stony heart. We mingled our tears, and I hope our prayers together.

“ Accompanied — and — to Westerham, and sat with the few friends there. My mind was impressed with the language, ‘ Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them;’ and had I not been afraid of running before my guide, I believe I should have expressed my conviction that the Master had indeed been with us, making himself known as formerly, by the breaking of bread. It was very confirming to me that — should, in her second communication, have quoted this very passage. The acknowledgment was raised in my heart, that it was good for me that I had been there; but I was restrained from expressing as much by a feeling of my weakness and unworthiness. Before we

separated, — expressed this very sentence, and commented upon it in a sweetly encouraging manner.

“The communications of our friends were of an encouraging tendency. Led to believe there would, if the little company continued faithful, be an addition to their number. The day was one to be remembered. How animating is the society of the good!”

About this time E. F. B. and his wife went into Norfolk, and on the 31st of 8th month, 1835, he writes:—“We returned from our trip into Norfolk, about a fortnight back, having been most kindly entertained by our friends. My general health appears somewhat improved, but the affection of the spine much the same.

“I do now begin to feel exceedingly anxious on this account, fearing at times I may be quite laid by. The doctors advise entire giving up, and perfect rest. What to do I know not!”

To a friend he writes as follows:—

“Croydon, 20th of 9th mo. 1835.

“My dear friend —,

“Thou wouldst, I fear, think me disposed to look on the dark side, on Seventh-day. Indeed I cannot deny there are times when I feel *deeply* tried at the state of my health. Bodily pain, though

trying to bear, is not what affects me so much as the fear that I may (to attain the rest so much recommended) be obliged to lay by, and perhaps give up a situation, the duties of which I have been able to perform to some degree of satisfaction to my friends, and comfort to myself, and which has been the means of furnishing a comfortable provision for my family. I know it is my duty not to repine; and I do at times desire to be preserved from murmuring, being well aware that goodness and mercy have been abundantly extended hitherto. Indeed I do feel I have for many years been an unworthy partaker of numberless benefits; but when I think of my dear wife and our precious little ones, and feel sensible of increasing bodily infirmity, sorrow is my companion, and my tears often flow in secret: thy sympathizing heart, my dear friend, will, I know, make allowance for my weakness.

“ 27th of 9th mo. 1835. My dear E. has been very unwell, for more than a fortnight, with a serious attack upon the chest. The numbness in my legs continuing, I have, at the recommendation of the doctors, nearly abstained from walking for the past week, and really feel better. These are indeed trials of faith and patience. How do I desire that my beloved partner may be permitted speedily to recover; that our Heavenly Father may be

pleased to 'make all her bed in her sickness;' 'to comfort her by his life-giving presence;' 'to lift up the light of his countenance upon her;' to give her the 'oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.'

"I am encouraged about myself, and hope it may please a kind Providence again to restore to me the use of my legs. How grateful I ought to feel for any amendment!

"4th of 10th mo. 1835. This is the day appointed for the burial of the late dear Mary Gurney. How mysterious are the ways of Providence! Cut off, after a short illness, in the prime of life, in the midst of usefulness; the delight of her husband; the comforter of the afflicted; beloved by all. But stop! These things are ordered by Him who doth all things well, and it is not for us to say what doest thou? I do not know when I have felt any one's decease more acutely, having so recently been treated by her, and her dear bereaved husband, with such marked kindness.

"May dear J. J. G. be helped by the only Comforter. His is no common loss."

The debilitated state of his own health, and the illness of his beloved wife at this time, requiring a release from the important duties devolving on them, the committee accepted the services of their

friends, John and Hannah Marsh, who for eight months superintended the family.

1834. 10th mo. 14th. The following is extracted from his journal. “ — and his brother paid us a visit of a truly comforting nature. He remarked that, whilst sitting by us, he had been led to consider, and to be grateful for the blessing of health, of which he was a partaker, and of which we were deprived. He also said that however much our present afflictions might seem to cast a gloom around us, and the aspect of things might appear cloudy, yet he did believe, from what had been given him to feel, that there was a light near us and within us, approaching to the brightness of meridian day.

“ He expressed much to us of an encouraging nature. He believed that praise would yet arise in our hearts abundantly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, and that our sun would set in brightness.

“ In a sitting — had with us, on First-day evening, how sweetly did she endeavour to encourage and to cheer us ! She advised us to labour after resignation ; and told me I might, even whilst confined to my couch, be a fruit-bearing branch. Oh, that it may be so !

“ I have been particularly low and depressed the last three days, owing, I believe, partly to not being quite so well. I do not seem as though I could take

encouragement by the recollection of the passage, 'Cast not away thy confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.'

"I have, for the last two days, suffered considerable pain. I desire not to murmur, and was enabled, last evening and this morning, to pray for patience."

In the tenth month, to a friend, he writes as follows, viz. :—"I am not sensible of much improvement since thy truly acceptable visit. I believe I could not take one step without assistance. On considering my almost helpless condition I am often brought *very low*. Wearisome nights and days are appointed me, and I cannot help watering my couch with my tears. I know my stubborn and rebellious heart requires much to subdue it; and much as I seem to shrink from further suffering, yet, if greater reduction and further refinement be needful, may I seek for ability to say, 'Thy will be done.' Dear ——— paid us a most acceptable visit on the First-day. He began his address to me by quoting, 'Gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of affliction.' I could say amen, in my heart, to much of his communication, though I thought many of his remarks too encouraging to be applicable to my condition. My friends have always entertained too favourable an opinion of me. Whatever our fellow-creatures may think of us,

there is One, I often recollect, who knoweth us altogether as we are : before him I must eventually stand or fall. Dear —— paid me a sweet little visit yesterday morning. He remarked it was a great comfort to know where to look for help in time of trouble, and that he believed the great Master was acceptably served, by cheerfully and patiently enduring whatever he might be pleased to lay upon us. I cannot help at times fearing the dispensation may be in anger, and not in mercy ; and yet I am frequently engaged to number the blessings I have still left."

" Croydon, 26th of 10th mo. 1835.

" When my poor mind has been deeply tried, how often have I experienced comfort and consolation from thy kindness and sympathy ! Having been in a very low spot, yesterday and to-day, I thought I would just send thee a line, to say how we are getting on. My dear E. has evidently gone back during the past week. Ah ! my dear friend, I desire not to murmur, although I am at times ready to query, is any sorrow like unto mine ? I believe I am not entirely useless in the family, but my trouble is greatly increased by my incapacity to get about. I consider I have got on since thou wast here, and am surprised at the evident increase of strength in the back. Our friends J. and H. Marsh

are very kind in continuing to devote much of their time to the family.

“ 8th of 11th mo. 1835. Last Fifth-day was the anniversary of our wedding; and although I could not help feeling a little sad, and shedding a few tears, at the comparison of our present situation with that in which we were seven years ago, yet I trust the day was not unprofitably spent. We were led, during it, to speak of and commemorate the goodness of the Almighty, in having bestowed upon us so many blessings since our union. Earnest were our desires that it may please Infinite Wisdom speedily to restore both of us to health and strength.

“ On awaking this morning, this passage occurred to my recollection, ‘ Come, and let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;’ and during the course of the morning I was affected, even to tears, at the remembrance of the continued goodness of the Almighty, and of my unworthiness. My dear E. and I were comforted by the feeling, that although unable to meet with our friends, to perform the solemn duty of worship, yet the promise of the Saviour remained sure, that, where two or three were gathered together in *His name*, there he is in the midst of them. I think we were sensible of his presence, and our hearts were made tender and contrited before him; and a desire was expressed, that whatever might be his de-



sign in afflicting us, it might be accomplished in and through us.

“ 25th of 11th month, 1835. I believe I may be instructed by the recollection of some passages of Scripture, that have been impressed on my mind of late: ‘Thy heart is not right in the sight of God;’ ‘Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, when he led thee by the way,’ &c. Jer. ii.; ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God;’ and, ‘I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, I will be sorry for my sin.’

“ O! may I lay aside every weight, and the sins that do so easily beset. O that my patience may be increased, and that I may be preserved from murmuring! Yesterday was a low day every way. I seemed almost ready to despair of ever subduing my soul’s enemies. I feel I have nobody to blame but myself. I have resisted and acted against the secret intimations of duty. I have neglected to watch and to pray; and if I am now left to perish, I feel it will be just retribution.

“ Were he not a God, long-suffering and plentiful in mercy, I should have been cut off ere this. How many times have my good impressions been evanescent as the morning cloud and as the early dew. I desire to dwell in the valley of humiliation and self-abasement, and not, as on many former occa-

sions, too soon to forget the cause of my sorrow. I do believe that the design of many former dispensations of sickness has not been answered, or I should not have been reduced to my present state of helplessness and comparative uselessness. Let me then patiently bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him. Oh! now that I am brought very low, may he once more look down upon me with an eye of tender compassion, blot out my transgressions, which are indeed as a cloud, and forgive all my sin.

“ In a little sitting — had with me on First-day, he said he came not with any view to expression; but that, since sitting with me, he had remembered the passage, ‘ Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.’ He desired that this peace might be my portion, through the merits of Him who burst the prison-doors of the tomb, and rose from the dead.

“ In reference to my affliction I remarked, I could not help at times fearing it might be a judgment upon me. He thought, if this were the case, the sense of it would be very strong upon the mind; and that, after dispensations of this kind were passed, how many had had to testify, that not one portion of suffering had been partaken of more than was absolutely necessary to accomplish the end designed. I at times desire that this may be my ex-

perience ; but, alas ! how little do I act as though I really wished it."

From a letter, dated Croydon, 1st of 12th mo. 1835 :—

" I am afraid time will not allow of my adding much to my dear E.'s note ; but I will just say I feel nicely refreshed this morning, having had some comfortable sleep, to which I have latterly been unaccustomed. My general health has not been quite so good for ten days, and my helplessness continues truly humiliating ; and notwithstanding my spirits have been, and still are distressingly low *at times*, yet there are seasons when I earnestly desire, and I trust pray, that if it should be the design of Infinite Wisdom ever to restore to me the use of my limbs, the present afflictive dispensation may not be suffered to pass over without accomplishing the design intended. I hope I am grateful in witnessing the improvement in my dear E.'s health. I do now trust that she will be restored to us again. We have been favoured with visits, at different times, from truly kind and valued friends. These I number amongst our chief privileges ; and although I look back upon their encouraging communications, as so many brooks by the way, from which we may lawfully derive refreshment, I hope not to forget that my friends entertain too good an opinion of me ; and that, whatever estimate may be formed of us

by others, to our own Master, the great Searcher of hearts, we must stand or fall. May he grant me ability to do his will, whether it may be in more active labours, or in long-continued bodily weakness.

“ I have been much struck with the force of the following expression, ‘ They also serve who only *stand* and *wait*.’ Standing and waiting are duties from which some in the present day would gladly excuse themselves.

“ First-day, 20th of 12th month, 1835. Snow is now upon the ground, and this morning has been to me a winter season. I seemed to be, at times, as in the waste, howling wilderness; wormwood and gall appeared to be my portion; tears were shed in abundance, and I hope aspirations were raised to Him who remains to be a God hearing prayer. Oh! that I may be made willing not only to do, but also resignedly (if not cheerfully) to suffer whatever more may be needful for my further refinement and purification. The cup that my heavenly Father is filling, shall I not drink it?”

## CHAPTER VII.

*Decease of his father, Edward Brady—Interment of the remains of Joseph Binns—Attends meeting at Croydon, after an absence of ten months—Speaks in meeting as a minister—Continuation of extracts—Reflections on the thirty-fourth anniversary of his birth-day.*

AFTER having been for many weeks confined to his chair, it was thought best, by his medical attendants, that the subject of this memoir should submit wholly to a reclining posture; and through the kindness of a friend, a commodious couch was provided for him, which could easily be drawn from one room to another; and by this means he was enabled to enjoy the benefit of the open air, which, added to the total rest obtained by such a position, contributed to the improvement of his health, so that he regularly attended to the accounts of the institution, and generally spent a part of every day in the boys' school.

In reference to this improvement, he remarks, in a letter to a friend:—

“Croydon, 19th of 1st month, 1836.

“My health is generally very good, better than before I began to recline. I hope my back is progressing, though I am not conscious, from my feelings, of any improvement as to power over my legs. One thing is very favourable; I have perfect feeling in them, and the circulation must be pretty well kept up, as, during the severest weather we have had, when most were complaining of the cold, I was not once inconvenienced by it, although I had but a moderate share of clothing on. I have been very busy the last fortnight, and am pleased to find I can occupy myself, without inconvenience, with the affairs of the institution, seven or eight hours a day; so that, were I down stairs, I am persuaded I need not be unemployed, even as regards the various duties of my station. I know my dear friend will be pleased to find that my spirits have kept up much better lately; and it is often surprising to myself how I am helped to bear confinement to *one* position, night and day, with (I hope I do not presume in saying) some degree of resignation. Although I am well aware my recent opportunities for retirement and self-examination have not yielded all the profit they might have done, yet I do hope they have not been altogether unimproved. My desire has often been, that, like silver, I may come out of

the furnace purified, and fit for the Master's use. Oh, my dear friend, if I should be restored, even to go on crutches, what a favour it will be! I was much pleased to see — on First-day. He asked me many questions, and gave me encouragement. We are very forward with the accounts, and it will afford me much pleasure to lay the state of affairs before the committee next month. Notwithstanding our illness, and that of many others, during the past year, I do not remember a time when our finances were in a better state.

“ 12th of 2nd mo. 1836. We had an affecting visit from dear —. In a sitting he had with us he alluded to the trials we had individually experienced since we last met. He did not doubt we had mutually sympathized with each other. Indeed he considered it a Christian privilege, a refreshing stream by the way, that we were enabled to rejoice with those who rejoiced, and to weep with those who wept. He remarked that every heart knoweth its own bitterness; and quoted, ‘ I have loved thee with an everlasting love; with loving kindness have I drawn thee.’ He expressed his desire that neither heights nor depths, &c. &c. might be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

“ 14th of 2nd mo. 1836. My mind was in a low

spot the greater part of the day. I believe the enemy sometimes takes advantage of bodily weakness and infirmity, to come in like a flood : it would be well if we could, at such seasons, remember that his power is limited. I was a little comforted, in the latter part of the day, by the idea, that if the great Master were but in the vessel, no matter how the frail bark might be tossed and driven about. He could, and no doubt would, if best for us, in his own time, say, ‘ Peace, be still.’ I fear I have been too much disposed to look on the dark side of things ; not sufficiently remembering, in the midst of trouble, that goodness and mercy are still remarkably extended to us.

“ 28th of 2nd mo. 1836. Some events of the past week have been of a very affecting nature. My dear father, Brady, after an illness of nine days, departed this life, at his house at Hertford, last Third-day morning, at three o’clock. For the last twenty-five hours he was speechless, and was delirious the greater part of the time, with lucid intervals. In one of these, he requested the fifty-fifth chapter of Isaiah to be read to him, with which he seemed affected ; and at another time he prayed earnestly for forgiveness, through the merits of the Redeemer, and said he had nothing else to trust to. He wished his love to be given to all his absent



children, but did not seem to fret after our company, which I consider a favour. To-day his remains were interred at Hertford.

“ The remains of dear J. Binns were interred at Southwark. His memory is precious.

“ Whilst recording my sorrows I feel constrained to acknowledge, that on Sixth-day afternoon I was most unexpectedly overcome with a renewed feeling of the love, long-suffering, and mercy of our Heavenly Father. Had my harp been properly tuned, I felt as though I could have sung a song of praise. Sweet peace was my portion the rest of the day, and I trust gratitude was the clothing of my spirit.”

To one of his friends he writes as follows :—

“ Croydon, 2nd of 5th month, 1836.

“ My dear friend,

“ As thou hast found me once or twice in a low spot, and hast heard a similar report of me, I feel inclined to request thou wilt not make thyself uneasy on that account. Although I have said but little to any one, I have had latterly to go, as it were, to the bottom of Jordan. Thankful shall I be, I trust, if the time should ever come for me to bring up stones of memorial from thence.

“ I have had much time for reflection, and hope it has not all been lost upon me. In taking a retrospect of my past life, I feel bound to acknowledge

that goodness and mercy have followed me all my life long. I have had many warnings, from the state of my health, of the uncertainty of time, and many calls have been extended to me, to give up my whole heart unreservedly to the Divine will. This I have at times desired to do, but, alas! alas! my good resolutions have, as it were, been written in the dust; some secret reservation has always hitherto been made. This I do now clearly see, I believe, in that light that does not deceive.

“ I know it is no mark of religious growth to go mourning on our way: on the contrary, I believe none have so good cause to lift up their heads in hope, and to rejoice, as the truly Christian traveller. If these, notwithstanding, have, perhaps on account of others, to drink at times of the cup of suffering, no wonder that such should be my portion, whose sins of omission and commission have been numerous. I believe it will be best for me not to endeavour, too soon, to get from under my present feelings. There is more danger of my taking my flight in summer than in a winter season. I feel the need of the hand-writing against me being removed; and although the furnace is now being heated various ways, hotter than it has been wont, I do, I trust, sincerely desire that if I am ever to come out of it, the dross and the tin, and even the reprobate silver may first be removed. I believe the Divine hand is

heavy upon me, because of my transgressions, and I hope I can at times adopt the language, ‘ Let not thy hand spare, nor thine eye pity, till thou hast made me what thou wouldst have me to be.’ For the sake of my dear wife and family, and I trust, from a desire to walk more worthy of our high vocation, I do *earnestly* desire that it may please Him, ‘ who kills to make alive, and who wounds to heal,’ once more to restore to me the use of my legs : but if he should see meet otherwise to order it, and even still more to afflict, he will not have rendered to me according to my deserts ; oh, no ! or I should not have a comfort left.

“ Continue, my dear —— to feel and to pray for thy poor afflicted friend, who though brought very low is not in despair.”

On the 14th of 5th mo. to a friend he writes as follows :—

“ This is indeed an eventful period in the religious world in general, and one in which most, I think, cannot fail to feel a deep interest. I desire that all who may be engaged to take part in the important deliberation that will doubtless claim the attention of Friends in their collective capacity, may be more earnest to contend for the Truth than for the establishment of their own opinions. If charity, true Christian charity, were the covering of the spirits of all, how much would it tend to the restoration of

peace! Many, I have no doubt, will have been induced, by recent events, to examine into the nature, not merely of their profession, but of their possession, and to see on what foundation they have been building. Oh that all may examine with an eye to that Light which will not deceive !”

In a letter to his wife, who was at this time at the Isle of Wight, for the benefit of her health, he says :

“ 8th mo. 6th—After perusing thy letter the inquiry arose involuntarily, ‘ What *shall I*, what can I render unto the Lord for all his benefits ?’ Surely it cannot be wrong to pray that it may please him to restore thee to health again, the issue of course being in his Almighty hand who doeth all things well. What a privilege it is to feel that worship does not depend upon place or numbers ; but that when prevented assembling with our friends, incense may arise from the solitary heart, a pure offering. Mayst thou, my dear E. with our dear sister, experience the fulfilment of the promise, that ‘ where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.’ Oh, may he constantly be with you, watch over, preserve, and protect you, and may your portion be perpetual peace.

“ 8th mo. 7th. I purpose attending meeting this morning, after an absence of upwards of ten months. The prospect of meeting again with my friends is comforting, although it is an unspeakable privilege

to be able, even alone, (when unable to assemble with others,) to perform acceptable worship before him, whose eye pervades the secrets of all hearts, and whose promise is often verified in the experience of the two or three who are gathered together in *his name*. May he be in the midst of us this morning.

“ In looking back upon the last ten months, although my trials and provings have been many, yet I must acknowledge that mercies and blessings have abounded far, very far beyond my deserts. Lord, make me obedient to thy will !

“ Attended the two meetings, which were to me comforting seasons, particularly that in the morning, in which very earnest desires were raised in my heart for the best interest of my dear friends and myself : my dear E. was not forgotten.

“ After the evening parlour-reading I felt at liberty, if not constrained to acknowledge, (which I did in much weakness and trembling,) that I had been made grateful in having been permitted to meet my friends for the performance of the solemn duty of worship, and the desire that I felt that none of us might be satisfied with merely presenting our bodies on these occasions, but that each might be engaged to enquire ‘ wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God ?’ Then I have no doubt an offering would be prepared, that would be acceptable in the Divine sight. Although the Almighty had

doubtless for wise purposes seen meet deeply to afflict me and mine, for some time past, yet the query had again and again arisen, what shall I, what can I render unto the Lord for all his benefits? I felt peaceful after giving utterance to the substance of the above. Some in our little company appeared tender.

“ 8th mo. 22nd. Last evening we had the company of — to supper. In a little silence afterwards, and after a considerable struggle in my own mind, I expressed that a tribute of gratitude had been raised in my heart by a feeling of the goodness, forbearance, long-suffering, and love of our Heavenly Father; and I quoted, ‘ How great is thy goodness which thou hast laid up for those that fear thee, which thou hast wrought for those that trust in thee before the sons of men.’ Ps. xxxi. 19. ‘ Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.’ ”

8th mo. 23rd. He writes thus to his wife, whilst she was from home: “ Do not be concerned at my being a little low sometimes. I do not think there is much danger of my keeping too long in the valley. I have been much comforted latterly by a feeling of sweet peace, far beyond my deserts. If the Great Master does but condescend to feed us with food convenient for us, we may hope to derive spiritual nourishment.”

The following extract from his journal bears the

same date. "I awoke this morning under a very peaceful covering, which feeling has been over me like a canopy throughout the day. I desire to be grateful whilst recording the favour, and hope it will encourage me to continued watchfulness unto prayer. May I accept it as a token of approval of my little offering on First-day.

"On First-day morning my desire was—'Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk, for I lift up my soul unto thee.' In meeting, both in the fore and afternoon, I felt as though I must call upon my friends on these occasions to endeavour to wait only upon God, and to have their expectation fixed upon him alone. A fear that the evidence was not sufficiently clear restrained me. I was instructed by the testimony of —, who quoted, 'Can a man rob God, yet have ye robbed me, in tithes and *offerings*;' also of — who thought the good seed had been sown and watered in the hearts of some present, whom he wished to encourage to faithfulness. After the evening meeting I felt distressed lest I had withheld more than was meet.

"Dear — sat with me awhile, and very soon expressed, 'Fear not, worm Jacob, &c.' His counsel was just such as I needed. He advised me not to wait for too strong an evidence, but to move on in simple faith. He thought I had great cause to rejoice and take courage,"

To his wife he writes :—

“ 8th mo. 25th. What a scene of vicissitude is this life. I had for the last few days been so happy and peaceful in my own mind, that gratitude appeared to be the clothing of my heart. This drawback in thy health sensibly affects me ; but He, in whose hand is all power, will, I trust, bless thy residence in the Isle to thy perfect recovery, and thus restore the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Oh, he has been a refuge for us both, in many a storm, and as a shadow from the heat and a covert from the tempest. Shall we receive good from his all-bounteous hand, and shall we not receive evil? His mercy, goodness, and forbearance have been to me unspeakable, and I have still abundant cause to speak well of his ever excellent name.

“ 9th mo. 2nd. After the evening reading and questioning, in which the account of Paul and Silas’s imprisonment had been read, I adverted to the sufferings of our early Friends, many of whom considered nothing too near or too dear to give up for the testimony of Jesus, not counting their lives dear unto them, so that they might finish their course with joy. I expressed my hope that we should not lightly esteem those privileges that had cost our predecessors so much.

“ 9th mo. 4th. A day to be remembered by me.



Our dear little Bedford's birth-day, seven years old. He is at Atherstone. My thoughts turned towards him early this morning, with desires that as he grows in years he may grow in favour with the Almighty; and, oh, that he may be a real Friend and standard-bearer for the truth! In the morning-meeting my mind was much impressed with the importance of waiting upon and seeking after God, out of meetings as well as when collected publicly for the solemn purpose of Divine worship. My mind was powerfully arrested with the language, 'Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me.' Rev. iii. 20. After a considerable struggle I expressed the above, and also my belief that there were some present at whose hearts the Lord had long been knocking and waiting for an entrance, and I desired that they might be enabled to open unto him this day. I felt as though some might be called upon to give glory to the Lord our God, before he cause darkness, and before our feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and while we look for light he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness. Jer. xiii. 16. I expressed the above in much fear and trembling, and my portion for the rest of the day appeared to be peaceful poverty.

"I feel I am indeed treading upon awful ground.

Oh that I may stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower. Hab. ii.

“9th mo. 11th. Before the public evening reading I felt my mind drawn into stillness, and after the reading was best satisfied to remind our little company that it was not enough, on these occasions, to sit down in an orderly and becoming manner to hear the Scriptures read, unless our minds were turned *inward*, with desires that the Divine blessing might accompany what we hear, and I expressed my earnest desire that our prayers might arise before him as incense, and the lifting up of our *hearts* unto him might be an acceptable evening sacrifice.”

To a friend he writes thus :—

“Croydon, 12th 9th mo. 1836.

“How truly kind of thee to write to me on First-day, notwithstanding thy engagements. I did not expect it, but I receive it as a fresh proof of thy fatherly regard for one for whose best interest thou hast been long solicitous. Ah, my dear friend, I must tell thee, before a word was uttered, my mind was powerfully arrested with the important subject of seeking after ability to wait upon God *out of* meetings; believing that if we were thus engaged we should be more frequently made sensible of his life-giving presence when collectively assembled. Whilst — was speaking, the words ‘Behold,’ &c. seemed

to present themselves to my spiritual ear with so much force, that I believed I must utter them. But from listening to the reasoner I had well nigh let the opportunity pass by *again*: not I believe from wilful disobedience, but from a feeling of my own weakness and unworthiness. The recollection that even my feeble offering might be designed to arrest the attention of some one present, who might not be there on another occasion, and the remembrance that times and seasons are not at our command, and that 'woe' might be my portion if I did not give up, at length induced the trembling sacrifice. Whether I was heard by Friends generally I do not know, but from the tenor of thy note I perceive some words caught thy ear. After meeting I felt as if I would have gladly shrunk into a corner, from the observation of all. Although I think I felt sensible of the sympathy of my friends, peaceful poverty was my portion the rest of the day, which was more than I expected; and I do indeed feel, that if I am enabled to do any thing aright, for the promotion of the dear Redeemer's cause upon earth, it must be through his Spirit strengthening me. I think I desire not to go on too fast, but having at length yielded to what I had apprehended (I believe for upwards of nine years) might be required of me, if I have not mistaken my calling, I hope to be found faithful. Although I do not think it would be right to look

much outward for advice or assistance, seeing that 'to his own Master every man must stand or fall,' yet I do desire a continuance of thy sympathy and thy prayers."

On Fourth-day, the 14th of 9th month, 1836, he records, with grateful feelings, the return of his wife, who had been spending some time in the Isle of Wight for the benefit of her health. Under the same date he writes :—

"I felt best satisfied, in the evening, to speak to the boys respecting a more reverent quiet waiting in meetings. It appeared to make some impression.

"10th mo. 31st. I have been favoured with a little feeling of peace, which I desire to accept as a token of Divine compassionate regard. May I remember the watch-word, 'Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh!' I believe I must guard against an inordinate love of lawful things.

"12mo. 18th, 1836. Uttered a few words in meeting, beginning with, 'Although fully sensible that we are not sufficient of ourselves, even to think any thing as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is and must be of God, yet I was concerned to press upon all, particularly those in early life, not to sit down on these occasions in a dry, formal manner, but to endeavour to 'seek the Lord if haply they might be enabled to feel after him, and find him,' &c. and

I desired that we might individually be permitted to experience the fulfilment of the gracious promise, 'Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh unto thee.'

"12th mo. 21st. After supper I mentioned that I had very often been reminded of the declaration, 'Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it,' &c. and seeing it is so, some might be led to enquire, 'who is sufficient for these things?' I believe we should not yield to discouragement, but that we should seek for a blessing on our labours, and should be willing to act as watchmen, to stand upon the tower, &c. I reminded our little company of the apostolic injunction, 'Let him that teacheth wait on teaching.'

"12th mo. 29th. My birth-day. This morning has been more of a day of business and bustle than many. The evening was passed most pleasantly with dear — and twenty-four of the boys. May the good advice imparted be remembered by them—the impression was evidently striking.

"My feelings for some days have not been peaceful, I believe for want of more watchfulness. Angry feelings have often arisen. I acknowledge, dearest Saviour, that without thy holy and omnipotent aid I shall never overcome this my easily besetting sin; nevertheless I do believe that thy grace is sufficient in every extremity. Oh, be pleased to help me to

watch. May I be permitted to return the tribute of thanks for the improved health of my dear E. and for my own increase of strength. May it please thee to grant a perfect restoration, and to enable us to live more and more in thy fear, and to thy glory. 'Establish thou the work of our hands upon us, yea the work of our hands establish thou it.'"

## CHAPTER VIII.

*Extracts from memoranda—Some improvement in his health—  
Visits Brighton and tries the vapour-baths there—Returns  
to Croydon—Appearance of tumours—Letter to the girls,  
and to a young friend.*

“1837. 1st mo. 1st. Engaged to-day and yesterday in taking a retrospect of the past year, and in the consideration of that just commenced. Alluded to it after the children’s reading, I hope not unprofitably.

“2nd mo. 22nd. Dear —— was at meeting, which was to me striking and encouraging. She began her testimony with the words of Isaiah, l. 10, ‘Who is there among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.’ This had been accompanied in her mind with the gracious promise, (Isa. xli. 17,) ‘when the poor and needy seek water and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them; I the

God of Israel will not forsake them ; I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys ; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.' She believed there were those present who had been enabled to make some straight steps to their feet, and who had been led in paths that they had not known. She thought this would still be the case, and although in times of desertion and poverty they might seem to sit as in darkness, and a feeling might arise that they had retrograded in their Christian course, which feeling the enemy was always ready to promote, yet she believed the encouraging language might be applicable, ' Fear not, worm Jacob.'

" I had been in a very tried state of mind for some days past, owing I believe to unwatchfulness. I had been ready to despond, and to fear I should at last fall by the hand of my cruel enemy ! Whilst writing I derived a ray of encouragement from the unexpected remembrance of the passage, ' taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked ;' and although I have many times desired that my besetting sins, the thorn in the flesh, might be removed, yet how is our love to be proved, our allegiance shown, but by continuing, in the ability afforded, to strive against sin ? Divine grace will ever be sufficient for all who implicitly rely on it. Once more, may I implore



holy aid, to watch against anger, even in thought. My heart is not, I fear, *wholly* given up to serve the Lord, and I am often abased and brought very low, lest by any indiscretion on my part, either in word or deed, I should prove a stumbling-block to others. How much is comprehended in the few words, 'to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, in *all* things!'

" 1837. 3rd mo. 7th. On First-day Dr. Hodgkin kindly came to see me. He seemed to take quite an encouraging view of the health of my dear E. and myself; and although he did not think he should allow me to leave my couch quite so soon as he had given me reason to expect, yet he thought, after the Yearly Meeting I might be safely allowed to make a move. At first I felt something like (I fear) a feeling of dissatisfaction at the prospect of being kept on my back six weeks longer than I had expected; but when I consider how I have been helped along and provided for, during the past seventeen months, I feel that I ought never to mistrust again, but that gratitude should be the continual covering of my spirit.

" As the time seems to draw nearer for my leaving my couch, I sometimes fear lest some of the lessons learnt upon it may soon be forgotten. How is it that we should be more sensible to whom we are indebted for every blessing, when deprived of some of

his choicest gifts ; than when he graciously condescends to bestow upon us health, strength, and prosperity ? Oh, that I may be preserved from the state alluded to, ‘ He gave them their hearts’ desire, but sent leanness into their souls.’

“ 1837. 3rd mo. 9th. Although sensible of manifold infirmities, I have this morning been contrited under an humbling feeling of the overshadowing of heavenly goodness. When we have been tossed as with tempests, and not comforted, to be permitted to feel a little extension of heavenly love, how does it surpass any outward enjoyment whatever !

“ Oh, that I may be enabled to direct my prayer unto thee in time of temptation, and that I may not be unmindful of the numerous *daily* benefits I receive at thy hand.

“ I have often been struck with the abundant encouragement to be derived from the remembrance, that our merciful High Priest, Mediator, and Intercessor is not only able, but abundantly willing to succour them who are tempted, inasmuch as he himself hath suffered, being tempted ; yea, as we read, that in all points he was tempted like as we are, yet with this remarkable difference, *without* sin.

“ 5th mo. 17th. An evening not soon to be forgotten. — and — were with us. My mind had been in a distressingly low state for some time past, so that, although I had not quite

let go my confidence, yet I had been ready to fear I should be a castaway at last. In the morning meeting I had felt much tendered, a thing unusual with me of late; and I was, I believe, enabled to put up secret, heartfelt prayer to the God and Father of all our mercies. After tea dear —— addressed us at considerable length, and her words seemed to enter my heart as into ground prepared to receive the seed. She began by observing that various were the afflictions and trials permitted by our Heavenly Father, to prove the faith of his dependent children; for the sake of others, as well as on their own account: they had often to endure deep plunges and fiery baptisms; but if they endured the turnings and overturnings of the Divine hand upon them, they would be led safely through all; and she believed some present had been, and still were in the furnace, who would be brought clean out.

“ 5th mo. 28th, 1837. —— was at our meetings. In supplication he acknowledged our inability to perform the solemn duty of worship without Divine aid. To this my heart could indeed say, Amen! In testimony he alluded most feelingly to one of the twelve disciples betraying his Lord and Master. This must, he thought, have had a most discouraging effect upon the eleven, so as almost to make them ready to doubt the reality of that in

which they had believed. But (he continued) should instances of this kind shake our faith? Should they not rather quicken our vigilance, that even those who think they stand should take heed lest they fall? He alluded particularly to the trials the Christian traveller had often to endure in this life.

“ 1837. 5th mo. 30th. I have this day been under great discouragement, weak in body and low in mind. My cough has been very troublesome; and this returning just at the time when I had been buoyed up with the hope of walking again, to be a second time disappointed thus, I find hard to my unsubdued nature. Learn then, my soul, to live one day at a time. Commit thy ways, and thy goings, and thy doings *wholly* unto the Lord. How often has my petition been to be restored to health and strength again. May I henceforth more and more seek for ability to say, ‘ Nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.’

“ 6th mo. 4th. — and — paid us a visit after meeting, which I had not attended from indisposition. The former addressed me pointedly. He believed the Lord’s dealing had been marvellous towards me; and although at times they had, as it were, been in the sea, and it had seemed that the floods must overwhelm, yet I had been sustained. He rejoiced when he heard I had at length been strengthened to open my mouth in the assem-

blies of the people ; ‘ and yet, my dear brother,’ he continued, ‘ how very long it was ere thou gave up to apprehended duty. How many excuses thou hadst to plead !’ He had no doubt it was brought about through many baptisms, and that I should yet have still deeper and deeper sufferings to endure. He had been dipped into sympathy with me, under a belief that the enemy of my soul had indeed often beset me sore. He continued :—‘ How hath he tempted and buffeted thee ! so that, but for that Rock that was underneath, (although at times it might appear very far below thee,) thou hadst been lost.’

“ As the result of his experience, he could assure me I must expect to have to undergo many baptisms ; for such was the wonderful nature of the work of the ministry, that for every fresh service was required renewed qualification and baptism.

“ He concluded a striking opportunity by quoting the encouraging text, Isaiah, xxxiii. 20 to 22, ending, ‘ The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our king ; he will save us.’ ”

On the 28th of 7th mo. 1837, E. F. Brady went to Brighton, and on Seventh-day took a vapour-bath. It does not appear that he sustained any injury by the journey down ; and he writes in good spirits, cheered with the prospect that the means used, with the blessing of Providence upon

them, might tend to his recovering the use of his limbs.

On this subject he remarks: "I know that without his blessing every effort will be unavailing. When we have done all in our power, we must leave the event in the hands of Him who is 'too wise to err, too good to be unkind;'" and then adds, "but for his fatherly compassionate regard where should I be? what should I do now? When I contemplate his goodness to me, from my youth up, gratitude and love prevail in my heart."

On the 7th of 8th month, whilst at Brighton, he writes thus respecting his health:—"I have improved more than I contemplated when I left home; can sit up in my easy-chair, with my feet to the ground, an hour or two." He adds, "I have great cause to be encouraged and to be grateful; but I confess I rejoice with trembling, not knowing what the end may be." In this letter, as on many other occasions, he gratefully acknowledges the uniform kindness of the committee to himself and his family.

In another letter, dated Brighton, — of the 9th month, he continues to speak of improvement in his health, and states, "I now walk backwards and forwards in my room, on crutches, several times a-day, but not without help." Before concluding this letter, he was not so well; and in a letter to his wife, dated 9th mo. 3rd, 1837, he writes: "I hope

the dear children are good. Kiss them all for dear papa; and tell dear B. he has it in his power, by being obedient to his parents, teachers, and friends, and kind and affectionate to his sisters, to make us happy. On the contrary, if he acts otherwise, sorrow will be our experience. Young as he is, if he take heed to, and obey the dictates of the Spirit of Truth in his own heart, he will be led safely along. We can but point to the path; may our Heavenly Father enable him and his precious sisters to walk in it! Encourage our dear boy, more and more, to review his actions each night, before retiring to rest; and O that, in the morning, his first thoughts may be directed heavenward."

After his return from Brighton, it soon became evident that his spine was not in a state sufficiently strong to justify his continuing to walk with crutches, or even to sit upright. This was indicated by the formation of a tumour on the back, pretty near the part affected, its appearance being sometimes larger than at others; and after a time, a smaller one appeared on the right side of the chest. In a note, dated Croydon, 23rd, of 11th mo. 1837, on the subject, he says: "I frequently fear that I may be a poor cripple the rest of my days;" and adds, "when I labour after a feeling of resignation to the will of my Heavenly Father, whatever that may be, my portion is peace."

On the 1st of 12th mo. 1837, he made the following entry in his journal "I appear to have lost all I thought I had gained at Brighton. About a month back, Morgan, a surgeon of Guy's Hospital, came and examined me, and in consequence of the tumour on the back, ordered me to give up walking and sitting erect. This I have done. It seems probable the tumour will end in abscess: it may be a long time first. This has been a sore trial, but I hope I have been kept from murmuring. After many deep plunges and provings, I have, I trust, been made thankful for the hope I have in the free and unmerited mercy of God in Christ Jesus. I have indeed nothing else to build upon. And, oh! if it should please an all-wise and all-merciful Creator to appoint for me a bed of suffering, may he endue me with patience, and enable me to glorify him 'as in the fires.'

"8th of 12th mo. 1837. Since writing the above, I have been unwell with cold and sore throat, &c. I kept up-stairs five days. I am now much better, and have commenced sleeping down-stairs again, so as always to be in a recumbent position.

"A very busy time with my pen is now coming on, in connexion with the school accounts. May I above all remember, oftener than the day, the last great account I may shortly be called upon to



render. When my hands are employed, may my heart be lifted up to Him whose 'tender mercies are over all his works.'

"1838. 1st mo. 18th My mind was this morning affected, in a way I do not remember to have before experienced, with a most solemn feeling of the awfulness of eternity. I seemed completely overwhelmed with the idea, that probably, ere long, I might have to stand in the presence of that Almighty Being who is purity itself. Oh ! if his love and goodness were not as great as his power, I should be divested of even the shadow of hope.

'Heal me, Immanuel ! here I am  
Waiting to feel thy touch ;  
Deep-wounded souls to thee repair,  
And, Saviour, I am such.'

I acknowledge, O gracious and compassionate Lord God, that thou hast in very faithfulness afflicted me. Notwithstanding thy blessings have been showered down upon me, from my youth up, how forgetful have I been of the bounteous Giver ! Grant, I pray thee, an increase of faith, a renewal of love, and still greater capacity to say, under any dispensation, 'Thy will be done;' and if thou hast so ordered it that my tarriance here below is nearly ended, O ! be pleased to take me not hence, until my polluted heart is cleansed from every defilement, by the blood of thy dear Son. And, O ! permit me

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to intercede for my dear partner, who has indeed been to me a choice blessing. Grant her strength according to the trials of her day. Enable her to look to thee as a God of love, a tender and ever-pitying Father. Should sufferings abound, O grant, also, that her consolation may abound in thee! And, oh! for our precious children, I do not ask riches, or worldly honours, but grant that they may be quick of understanding in thy most holy fear. Preserve them, I pray thee, from evil, that it may not grieve them! Keep their hearts tender and susceptible, and ever ready to follow the guidance of thy Holy Spirit, that so they may be qualified to serve thee on earth, and to glorify thee in heaven.

“When I think of the kindness and paternal affection — has evinced towards me, from my youth up, I am indeed melted into tenderness. I trust gratitude is not wanting towards my Heavenly Father, and to him, as the agent of his bounties to me and mine.”

On the 10th of 2d mo. 1838, the tumour on his back was opened, upon which he writes:—

“1838. 2nd mo. 18th. Yesterday two weeks I had the tumour on my back opened. The anticipation of it had occasioned much serious thoughtfulness, as the doctors were very doubtful as to the result. I consider it a favour I was and have been preserved in comparative quiet and calmness. I

hope it is not insensibility. I seem much relieved by the operation, at least for a time. May I be grateful enough !”

The following is extracted from a letter addressed to the girls, dated,

“ Croydon School, 2nd mo. 25th 1838.

Dear Children,

“ Although writing is not a very easy task to me just now, I think I shall hardly be satisfied without telling you, in this way, how much I have thought of you during the past week. . . . .

“ Do not forget, I entreat you, that you are at *all* times under the notice of the Almighty ! That although you may conceal many things from your teachers, you can hide nothing from his all-penetrating eye, who is acquainted even with your very thoughts.

“ The consideration that He sees us at all times ought to be a consolation and a strength to us, inasmuch as we know that he watches over us for good, and that like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him : it is this fear, proceeding from love, we wish you to cultivate, it is described as the ‘ beginning of wisdom, and as a fountain of life, preserving from the snares of death.’

“ Forget not, dear children, you cannot preserve yourselves ! that you have an unseen enemy ever on

the alert, ready to take advantage of your unwatchfulness : those whom he cannot overcome, as a ‘ roaring lion,’ he seeks to deceive and betray ; he does all he can to mislead the youthful mind ; he would persuade you to take your ease, that the strait and narrow way is too difficult to walk in ; that by and bye will be time enough for you to be serious. Believe him not ! he was a deceiver from the beginning, and when disposed to listen to his suggestions, consider, I entreat you, what he has to offer to you—the wages of sin is death ; the portion hereafter of those who dwell with him, who now rules in the hearts of the disobedient, will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. I feel, dear children, the awfulness of the subject I am alluding to, and although I would earnestly desire that your minds may be rightly impressed therewith, I would rather recommend you very often to contemplate, with love and gratitude, the rewards laid up in store for the good, for all who sincerely endeavour to fear, love, and serve the Almighty, evincing their love by closely following the dictates of his Holy Spirit in their hearts. Such will find that Wisdom’s ways are ways of pleasantness, and her paths peace : they will find, when they recline on their pillows, that they are at times permitted to feel that they can repose in peace, because their Heavenly Father maketh them dwell in safety. How do I desire that every one who hears these lines may



be permitted to feel that she has a Father in heaven, whom it is her duty, as well as highest interest to obey, serve, and love.

“Remember, dear children, your teachers are placed over you in the absence of your parents, to endeavour to train you up in knowledge and virtue. You have now to be prepared to act your part in life. Surely every sensible child will feel how much she owes to those who have borne with her frowardness, instructed her ignorance, and endeavoured to lead her feet into the only path of present and future happiness. ‘Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves,’ is a gospel injunction, and is, I believe, as dear — and — informed you, not long since, an acceptable means of testifying your love to your Heavenly Father.”

The subsequent extracts from a letter addressed to a young man, for whom he was much interested, seem deserving a place in this Memoir, and it is hoped may be read with advantage.

“I have long felt anxious to communicate with thee on a subject of the highest importance. I have reason to fear, from what I have casually heard from thyself, as well as from others, that thou hast imbibed sceptical notions on some of the most important truths of religion. As to the *authority* of the Holy Scriptures, they were written by Divine inspiration,

and remain to be 'profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.' Among many proofs of their authenticity and claim to credibility, may I think be ranked their impartiality. Not only are the virtues of good men held up as examples for imitation, but their failings are recorded as beacons, from which succeeding generations may take warning, and learn not to trust to their own unassisted reason for preservation and safety. Is it wise for us, poor erring mortals, to presume to call in question the wisdom of the Almighty, in permitting this or that portion of Scripture to remain on record? Surely it rather behoves us to adore and wonder at the marvellous display of the goodness, long-suffering, forbearance, and love of God, which the sacred pages exhibit from Genesis to Revelation.

"The life of David, I am well aware, presents many proofs of the weakness and infirmity of poor human nature. But who can read his penitential Psalms, those beautiful effusions of a broken and a contrite heart, but must acknowledge, that where sin had abounded grace did subsequently much more abound.

"I grant that parts of the Old, as well as of the New Testament, are hard to be understood, and we read that those that are 'unlearned and unstable wrest these portions to their own destruction.' May we be preserved from being of this number, well knowing

that the way of life and salvation, as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, is so plain 'that he that runs may read,' and 'the wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein.'

"It seems, from thy inability to reconcile with reason the New Testament account of the birth, &c. of our Saviour, thou art unwilling to admit the truth of it. Really I tremble for thee, if thou art come to that pass, as to refuse to believe any thing that poor unassisted human reason cannot comprehend. It remains to be a truth, that 'the world by wisdom knoweth not God,' and that 'the natural man cannot comprehend the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.' The birth of our Saviour was miraculous! It was so predicted hundreds of years before it came to pass, and to refuse our assent to it, we must reject Scripture altogether. The various prophetic predictions of his coming, his life, miracles, sufferings, death, resurrection, and ascension are most wonderful. The Gospel and the Epistles abound with the all-important subject—salvation by Christ. Let me entreat thee, my dear —, in the words of the apostle, 'Take heed that there be not in thee an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.' 'How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation.' 'There is none other name under heaven, given

among men, whereby we must be saved, but the name of Jesus ;' at his name every knee must bow. Do not treat this subject as a matter of no consequence, or turn from it. On thy right decision respecting it I believe thy *eternal* happiness depends. Enter quietly into thy closet ; cast aside thy speculations ; humble thyself in the Divine sight ; beg of the Almighty to enlighten the darkness of thy understanding, and grant thee a renewed portion of his Holy Spirit to enable thee to discern between good and evil. Thy life has hitherto been one of trial and disappointment. How do I desire that nothing may be suffered to rob thee of future and eternal happiness. Yes — there are joys laid up in store, inconceivably great and permanent in duration, for those who love, fear, and serve God ; but it must be in the way of his own requiring.

“ Though fully sensible of many imperfections and short comings, yet I do earnestly desire to unite with those most dear to me, in leaving the things that are behind, and pressing forward to those that are before, looking unto Jesus. In my present trials, anticipating what may probably be the result of my confinement, I should be without a ray of consolation, but for the hope at times permitted, that, through the mercy and merits of a once crucified, now risen and glorified Redeemer, I might eventually be granted an admission into that king-

dom, none of whose inhabitants can say I am sick, the people who dwell therein are forgiven their iniquity. Although thus earnestly pleading for the reception of the truths of the gospel, I hope not to be misunderstood, as supposing that the mere assent of the understanding is all that is essential. A belief, to be efficacious, must be evinced by its effects upon our daily life and conversation. By a careful attention to the dictates of the Spirit of Truth, granted to ALL who diligently wait for and obey its leadings, we may be guided safely through the labyrinth of this world, and be permitted to land happily at last. It is the end that crowns all.

“That the Divine blessing may accompany this feeble effort of affection, is the earnest desire of

“Thy truly-attached

“EDWARD F. BRADY.”

## CHAPTER IX.

*Continued and increased illness—Decease—Review of his character—Address to the reader.*

WHEN the case of the dear sufferer had reached that point which deprived his nearest connexions and friends of all expectation of his recovery, they found that his mind was fully prepared for the intelligence of his approaching dissolution. Nature for a time seemed to shrink at the prospect of parting with his beloved wife and their infant children; nevertheless the struggle did not appear to be of long duration, and he was enabled, through Divine assistance, to resign himself, and all he held most dear, into the hand of his faithful Creator. He repeatedly informed his friends that he had been enabled to adopt the language, "Thy will be done."

Evidence is not wanting to prove his undeviating attachment to the religious principles professed by the Society of Friends, and his confidence in redeeming mercy supported him to the end of his race.

To a friend, on the 19th of the 1st mo. 1838, he wrote as follows :—

“ We much enjoyed thy visit, and that of thy dear sister, on First-day, and I hope the children will not soon forget the counsel extended after reading. If consistent with the will of our Heavenly Father, we should rejoice to see thee fully restored to health and strength again. How have I desired that this might be his good pleasure as regards myself! On this head I fear I have been too anxious ; and when I think I may perhaps, ere long, be called to appear before a God of infinite purity, I should be without a ray of consolation, were it not for the hope I have in his mercy. In some of my lowest seasons this has been my only anchor. Continue, my dear friend, to think of me and mine for good ; and when favoured with access at the foot-stool of the throne, oh, petition that I may not eventually become a castaway.

“ Do not think, my dear friend, from the above, I indulge a spirit of repining ; I trust from this I have been preserved. Indeed I often gratefully number my blessings, and I trust I can at times kiss the rod, remembering who hath appointed it. Yes, goodness and mercy have followed me all my life long ; and if the day's work do but keep pace with the day, if the warfare be steadily pursued, and the watch constantly maintained, I cannot doubt that, through

Redeeming love they will be continued to the end."

One evening he requested that his little boy might read to him the twenty-third Psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, &c." After which he spoke to him very sweetly; saying he believed he should not live much longer; entreated him to be a good boy, to be dutiful to his dear mother, and kind to his little sisters; to be sure to attend to that in his own mind which would check him when tempted to do wrong, and cause him to feel happy when he knew he had endeavoured to do right.

On 1st day, the 11th of 3rd mo. he very affectionately addressed his wife, saying, he trusted she would be cared for when he was gone. He remarked that all anxiety about her and their dear children was taken from him, he believed in mercy.

He wished, in the afternoon, to see —; and soon after she came into the room, he feelingly addressed her, and expressed his desires for the dear girls under her care. He also spoke very sweetly to his wife, on the prospect of his being soon called into eternity, saying, that it was the constant subject of his thoughts, and that he felt sweet peace in it; that he had nothing of his own to depend upon; it was all through unmerited mercy. He encouraged her to bring up their dear



children in the fear of the Lord, and in accordance with the principles of Friends.

3rd mo. 12th. This evening he requested to see —, when, after a little time spent in solemn silence, he sweetly and very encouragingly addressed his young friend, in which he adverted to the unity of spirit they had at times felt with each other, and the precious [religious] opportunities they had frequently witnessed together. He expressed it as his belief that the visitations of Heavenly love had been extended to this friend, and encouraged him faithfully to attend to the manifestations of the Divine will.

15th of 3rd mo. His wife and himself spent this day much alone, during which he often alluded to the prospect of their separation; pressed upon her his desire that their dear children should have a guarded education; mentioned his wishes respecting his interment, and the disposal of some tokens of remembrance to his brothers, sisters, and near relatives. His wife remarks that his tender counsel and affectionate solicitude were calculated to encourage her to place all her dependence upon “Him who,” he said, “would indeed prove himself the widow’s judge and the orphan’s friend.” “And,” she adds, “I have felt it a great privilege thus to watch by the bed-side of my precious husband, and to receive his impressive, excellent advice.”

3rd mo. 16th—Was a day of considerable excitement. It was thought best to remove him to another bed, which he dreaded exceedingly; and was very earnest in prayer to the Almighty, to grant (if consistent with his holy will) that it might be done without much suffering. This was remarkably the case; and when accomplished, he seemed overwhelmed with gratitude, saying, he did believe his prayer was heard and graciously answered.

3rd mo. 17th. He was very uneasy in the morning, but, getting more comfortable towards the middle of the day, he resumed his accustomed cheerful deportment; spoke of his many comforts, and the kindness of his friends, remarking, “How tenderly the Lord deals with me. It is all in unmerited mercy. I have nothing of my own to trust to.”

On the same day, he had an interview with one of the female teachers; and in the course of his communication to her, he observed that none of us are called upon to go a warfare at our own charges, and intreated her to do all that her hands found to do. We ought, he said, simply to follow our guide, not considering too much our own poverty, weakness, or unworthiness. He had sometimes been robbed of peace by listening to the discourager. He greatly desired that religion might be presented to the children in a cheerful garb. On receiving a message of love from the

junior teachers, speaking of them with much feeling, he said, "Should I see them, I think I must tell them to seek oftener than the day for Divine direction, that they may go in and out before their charge acceptably." He expressed his belief that a pious teacher might be ranked among those who turn many to righteousness, even if never called to more public service, and that the reward to such would be great. He desired that the minds of the dear children might be still more deeply impressed with a sense of their Heavenly Father's omnipresence. Many of them were deeply sensible that they had an unwearied enemy near them; and he trusted that those who had the care of them, would more than ever point them to Him who was always ready to succour and to save. Alluding to his own state, he said he had been wonderfully favoured with peace; (and weeping,) he added, the Lord had been a refuge to him in distress, a refuge in times of trouble; that without the support which had been granted to him, he knew not how he could have endured what he had passed through during the last two weeks.

In the afternoon he wished to see his children. When seated by his bed-side, he requested a psalm to be read. After which he addressed them very sweetly and beautifully; begging them to remember, when their dear father was gone, his advice to

them; to love one another, to be kind and affectionate to dear mamma, and aunt; and above all, to seek forgiveness from their Heavenly Father, when they had done any wrong action; to pray to him, in their *little hearts*, every night, before they slept; and to think of him the first thing in the morning, desiring that he would enable them to be good through the day.

On the 19th, 20th, and 23d several of his near relatives went to see him, to most of whom he had some precious counsel to impart.

On the 24th of 3rd mo. 1838, whilst under great bodily suffering, he uttered the following short petition:—

“ I pray thee, O holy Father, give me strength to bear all my sufferings, without dishonouring thy holy name.” And it seemed as though this prayer was mercifully answered, for in a very short time he became comparatively easy.

He said to his brother-in-law, “ See, dear Thomas, to what human nature may be reduced ;” and added, “ I hope if ever thou comest to a similar condition thou wilt witness the same support which I have experienced.” He often spoke with much gratitude of his brother’s kind and affectionate attention to him during his protracted suffering.

The kind and judicious care of his medical attendant, E. Westall, was another source of comfort to

our suffering friend, to which he often alluded with grateful feelings.

On one occasion he remarked, that he had thought he might have had an opportunity of seeing the boys once more, but that not being now likely to be the case, he very feelingly desired his love might be given them.

4th mo. 5th. During this day he had some interesting conversation with his dearest friends. In the afternoon, with a trembling hand, he affixed his name to a letter which he had dictated to a friend for whom he felt much, and whom he had been prevented seeing, and remarked, "he had now finished his work here."

4th mo. 6th. (Sixth-day.) Although his strength gradually declined, his mind was preserved as clear and bright as ever. On his wife reading two favourite hymns, he repeated, after her, greater part of the one entitled "Rock of Ages," and added, "I wish thee, my precious one, to make that hymn peculiarly thy own. I have often been encouraged by it to place my dependence entirely on the mercies of the dear Redeemer."

To a dear friend he stated that his judgment had been abundantly confirmed, and particularly so during his confinement to his chamber, in the belief that the religious views and writings of Friends were in full accordance with the sacred records; and from oc-

casional observations it is evident that he considered the welfare and preservation of children greatly to depend upon their minds being duly impressed with a sense of the omnipresence of the Divine Being; and he had long been of the opinion, that under right guidance, subjects of a religious character might not unfrequently be profitably introduced into the private and social circles of Friends.

4th mo. 7th. (Seventh-day.) The dear invalid evidently became weaker, and towards night the medical attendant was apprehensive his close was very near. When the family were collected for their evening reading, he requested one of his brothers to deliver a message to this effect :—that it had been his intention to see the family once more ; but as he now thought that could not be accomplished, he wished in this way to express his love, his unbounded love, attended with a desire that all would endeavour to walk perseveringly in the narrow way, bidding them very affectionately farewell !

Notwithstanding this affecting message, he felt himself strengthened, about an hour afterwards, to see all the teachers and servants in the family, one at a time. He was only able to take them by the hand and to say farewell ! which he did with such composure and heavenly sweetness, that it was evident to all his peace was made, and that he was only waiting his Master's summons to enter the

mansion of rest prepared for him. He did not sleep at all during the night, though he was free from pain, but in so sinking a state that we watched him, thinking he would soon pass away. When just recovered from a fainting fit, he said, "I thought I was going," and expressed some regret at finding this was not the case! He afterwards sweetly addressed all present, and craved for himself that he might be preserved in patience to the end. He revived a little towards morning, and whilst some of his nearest relatives were standing around his bed, he feelingly and pertinently addressed them individually, at considerable length; and upon a friend remarking, in reference to one of them, that he trusted dear Thomas had in a good degree given up to follow the Lord in his requirings, he said "he wished to encourage simple, faithful trust in him; that he was not a hard master, and in his service there was perfect liberty. It is written, 'When he putteth forth his own sheep he goeth before them,' and, oh, if he condescend to put thee forth, dear Thomas, may he go before thee, and mayst thou follow him!"

Throughout First-day he was in a very sinking state, and towards evening the spasms in the chest increased. He several times said that his mind was perfectly quiet, and that he longed to be released.

On second-day, the 9th of 4th mo. on again seeing the light, he said, "When I was prop-

ped and pillowed up for the night, little did I think another day would dawn upon me; believing ere this I should have been at rest in the bosom of my Saviour; but the Lord's will be done!" He revived a little, and was so much refreshed as to express a wish to see his dear children again. When they came to his bed-side he addressed them in language similar to that which he had used on a former occasion. He begged his dear boy not to forget the dying words of his papa, and he then took an affectionate and final farewell of them.

He very gratefully expressed his sense of the unwearied kind attentions of his sister-in-law, and on one occasion, affectionately addressing her, he said, "Shouldst thou ever be afflicted, may thy bed of sickness be as well attended as thou hast attended mine. I feel truly thankful to thee for it. At another time he expressed the gratitude he felt for the kind care she had taken of his children, from their infancy, and added, "Continue, my dear sister, to endeavour to train them up in the fear the Lord."

The period had now arrived when every thing of a terrestrial nature was fading from his view.

He was sensible that death was approaching, and he enquired of a friend if he thought it likely he might soon be released!

At that solemn season he looked for the undeniable messenger without fear or terror: he longed for his ar-



rival, having a holy confidence that on the dismissal of his immortal spirit from its tenement of clay, all would be well! that an admission would be granted into "that city whose builder and maker is God."

He passed second-day night very quietly, but a considerable change was perceived on third-day morning, and about eight o'clock a trying cough came on, which lasted about two hours. After this he appeared much weaker, but evinced great tranquillity of mind during the day. Towards evening it was evident he was sinking away; and for some hours before his spirit was released he appeared unconscious of the presence of those around him, except that on one occasion, when his wife queried if he knew her, he said, "It is my dear Elizabeth."

After this what he said was somewhat unconnected, but clearly indicating that in passing through the valley of the shadow of death he feared no evil; that the arm of his Heavenly Father was still underneath, supporting him to the latest period of his existence, which peacefully terminated on fourth-day morning, the 11th of the 4th month, 1838; and respecting him, it was our consoling belief that death had no sting, and the grave no victory.

Let us here pause, and reflect on the blessed effects of that heartfelt religion of which our dear friend was a partaker, and the happy state of mind

to which he attained ; so that whilst the poor body lay prostrate in great suffering, his spirit was rejoicing in Christ his Saviour ?

We have seen that he filled the different stations through which he passed with exemplary propriety, whilst at the same time he was sensible of the frailties of human nature, and of his own deficiencies. Nevertheless, those who have marked his conduct during his youthful days, and more advanced life, have cause to know that he loved the Lord Almighty and chose him as his portion for ever.

He was remarkable, from early life, for a tender conscience, for strict integrity, and kind feelings, though naturally of a quick temper.

According to his means he relieved the wants of the afflicted, and in the exercise of this Christian virtue he had much comfort.

His method of imparting instruction was clear and impressive, and his influence in the family was highly beneficial. In important matters respecting the interesting institution under his care, his conclusions were judicious, and carried into effect with firmness, tempered with love.

It will be seen by the foregoing extracts, that he had long been sensible of a call to the ministry, and his not having given himself up to that service earlier was cause of sorrow to his susceptible mind, under which he was often brought very low ; but it is a

consolation to know that it did not arise from wilful disobedience to his Heavenly Father; far otherwise! a fear lest he might in any way dishonour that sacred cause, which was very precious to him, not unfrequently prevented his giving utterance to his feelings, and although he long deferred the public acknowledgment of his love to God and his fellow-creatures, he was enabled at length to burst the bands which held him, and in so doing he felt a peaceful reward; and some time before his close, he had to assure his friends, that his omissions and commissions were all forgiven, and that he felt there was nothing in the way to obstruct his admission into the regions of eternal bliss.

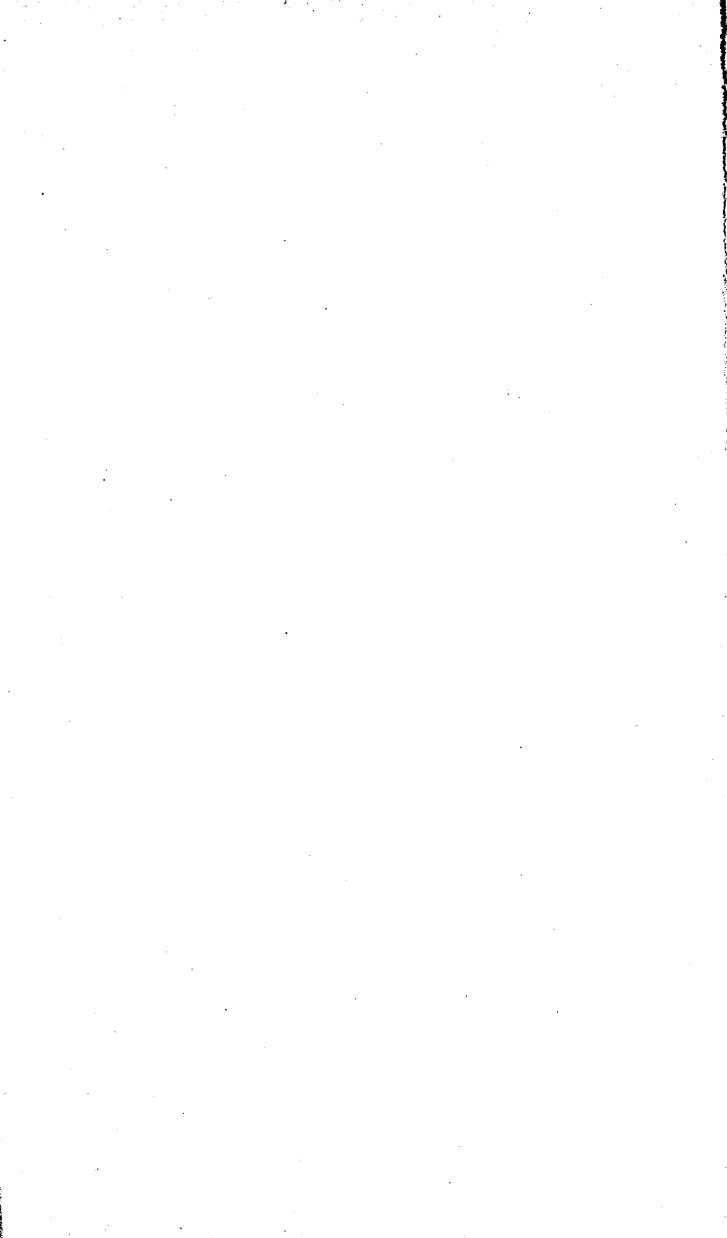
The interment of his remains, which took place on First-day, the 15th of 4th month, 1838, was attended by many friends, and also by several of his former pupils, who with the children of the school seemed deeply to participate in the general loss.

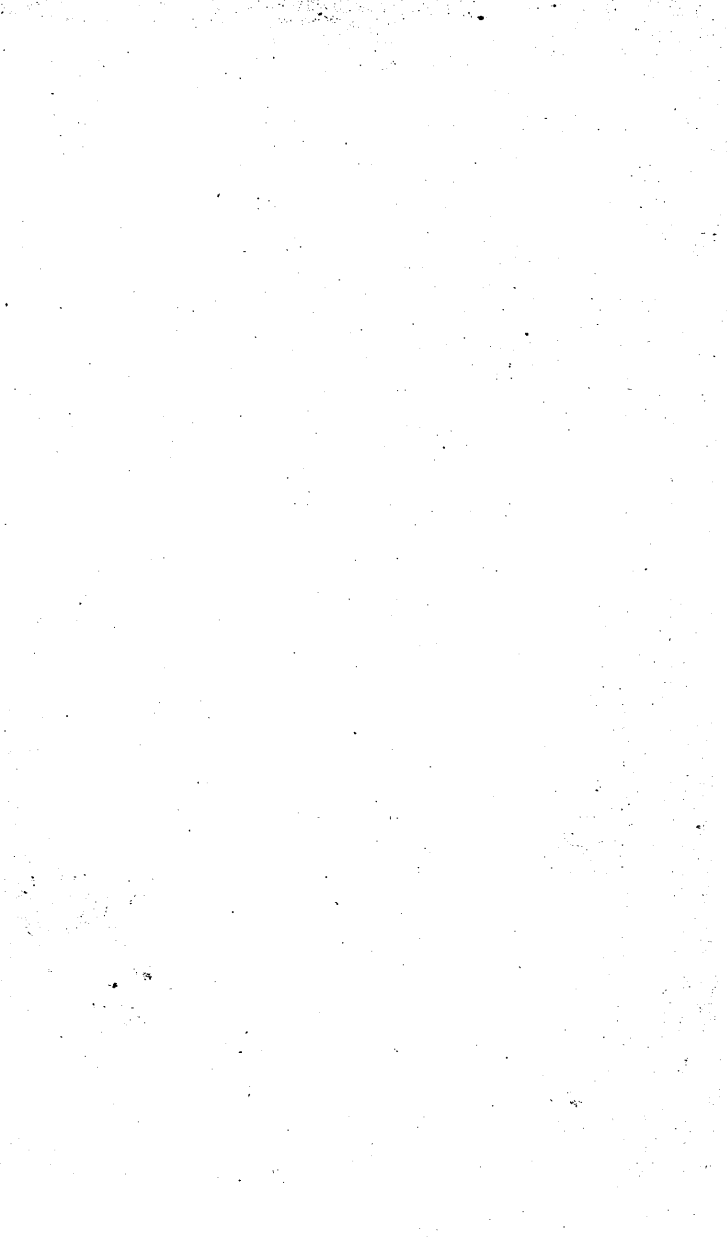
In the evening the family and many Friends met together at the school, when a portion of Scripture was read. A very precious feeling pervaded, and the opportunity concluded in solemn supplication!

Reader, allow the foregoing narrative to arrest thy attention! May it be the means of bringing to thy view the all-important purpose for which thou hast a being here, and produce a timely surrender of thy heart and will unto Him, who, in the character

of a merciful Father, demands this offering; that so, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewings of the Holy Ghost, thou also mayst know the blessedness of peace with God, through Jesus Christ; and finally be prepared for an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

THE END.





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